

OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE

A Guide to Its Historic Architecture



Randall H. Bennett

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Randall H. Bennett

**Oxford County Historic Resource Survey
Bethel, Maine**

Funding for the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey was made possible by a federal matching grant provided by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

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International Standard Book Number: 0-9614460-0-5

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 84-62624

Front Cover: Buckfield Village from Loring Hill, ca. 1848
Olivia Record (1820-1852)
Pencil on paper
Courtesy of Gilbert W. Tilton

Back Cover: County Buildings at Paris Hill Village, 1858
From *A History and Description of New England*
by A. J. Coolidge and J. B. Mansfield (Boston:
Austin J. Coolidge, 1859)
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PREFACE

This publication is the final product of the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey, a project begun in January 1980 under a grant to the Bethel Historical Society from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The Survey was originally established to gather information on structures of architectural importance in Oxford County dating before 1930, and during the first year, volunteers from many county communities worked with the Survey staff in recording historical and architectural information on data forms developed specifically for this purpose. Due to changes in funding in 1981, the major goal of the Survey was revised from a comprehensive inventory to the compilation of a work focused on Oxford County's most significant historic architecture. Since no authoritative history of the county exists, this publication should go far in identifying those social, political, and cultural factors that have given Oxford County its historic character. This volume also includes a selective bibliography dealing with Oxford County history, the first of its kind to be published.

Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture was written with several purposes in mind. Chief among these was to assist the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in identifying properties eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, "a catalogue of those buildings, districts, structures, objects, and sites deemed worthy of preservation for their historic, cultural, or archaeological significance to the American people and to their understanding of their heritage." At the local level, this volume will perhaps provide the groundwork for a deeper appreciation and understanding of the county's historic resources, as well as an incentive for local preservation efforts.

Covering everything from modest timber-framed eighteenth century houses to imposing Beaux Arts commercial structures, the text of the *Guide* discusses over 1,000 buildings and sites chosen for their architectural merit and historic importance. Though not meant to be exhaustive, the inventory of sites aims to be highly representative of the wide range of construction types, forms, and styles found in Oxford County. Arranged alphabetically by political units (most of which are incorporated towns), the text includes maps of each community treated, with significant buildings or districts pinpointed as to location. A map of the entire county is also provided to facilitate the book's use as a field guide. Over 400 photographs accompany the written text and illustrate many of the sites covered, including all of those listed on the National Register as of September 1984 (the symbol "NR" appears in such entries).

The majority of photographs included are from the archives of the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey. The generous loan of certain photographs by individuals and organizations listed below is gratefully acknowledged: Stephen Bauer (P-5 and P-6), Bethel Historical Society (A-1, A-2, B-11b, B-11e and B-11f, B-12a - B-12e, B-13a, B-13c - B-13h, B-20, B-22, H-5, M-8, N-1, N-4), Merton T. Brown (B-11a), Ben B. Conant (D-21c, O-26, P-2a and P-2b), William Fillebrown (W-5b), Alan Fraser (R-18d), Agnes Haines (B-1), Bill Haynes (W-3), Lucille Holman (D-18), L. Elizabeth Lord (W-5h), Douglas Nash (D-21a), Otisfield

Historical Society (O-6 and O-20), Margaret M. Sawyer (P-2i, W-5a and W-5c), Waterford Historical Society (W-5d), White Mountain National Forest/Evans Notch Ranger District (S-6).

In describing the county's built environment, the use of particular technical terms has been unavoidable. Those wishing a more complete definition of these architectural terms may wish to consult one of the following: Frank A. Beard, *200 Years of Maine Housing: A Guide for the House Watcher* (Augusta, Me.: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1981), John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945* (Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), or Deborah Thompson, ed., *Maine Forms of American Architecture* (Camden, Me.: Down East Magazine, 1976).

The task of gathering documentary material to supplement the large but as yet incomplete collection of architectural survey forms proved to be a challenging but, I trust, worthwhile effort. Due to limitations in time and funding, research efforts were concentrated on the numerous secondary sources which treat portions of the county; information gleaned from several area newspapers also proved highly useful. These sources are listed in the bibliography at the end of the book. The original survey materials, including data forms and photographs, are on file at the Bethel Historical Society, with copies of the forms maintained at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission office at Augusta.

In acknowledging their assistance and support, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to several individuals and organizations. For continued funding, thanks are owed to the Preservation Commission and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The completion of the project was due in large part to the continued support of the Bethel Historical Society, the sponsoring organization, and to the efforts of its director, Stanley R. Howe, who granted much-needed office space and staff time at the Bethel Society's headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House. Dr. Howe also read the manuscript and responded on several points of organization and style. Ben B. Conant, curator of the Paris Cape (South Paris) Historical Society and a leading Oxford County bibliophile and scholar, read the manuscript for its content and clarified or corrected numerous points of historical fact. Mr. Conant was also generous in sharing his extensive photographic collection of Oxford County buildings, possibly the finest in private hands today. Jane Hosterman, registrar of the Bethel Historical Society, served as a staff assistant during the first two years of survey activity and has provided unfailing assistance and encouragement throughout the project. David R. Hanscom provided excellent service in developing and printing many of the photographs chosen for publication. Agnes Haines contributed research time and extremely useful indexes which conclude the volume. Mrs. Haines also read the manuscript more than once for typographical and grammatical errors. Mildred Jackson typed portions of the manuscript and also read the final draft for typographical errors. Of those volunteers who completed forms or provided information, Ruby Emery and Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Holman deserve special mention. Gratitude to those who allowed on-site inspection of their

properties goes without saying. And finally, appreciation is extended to George R. Allen, project director during the first year of the survey work. In addition to introducing Oxford County's architectural heritage to local groups in well-prepared slide programs, Mr. Allen helped create many of the building lists from which final selections for inclusion in this book were made. Before he left the project in 1983, Mr. Allen compiled data on building sites in Buckfield, Hartford, Norway, Paris, and Sumner, many of which were incorporated into the final entries as presented here. For outlining many of the themes expressed in the introductory material which follows, I am also grateful.

Despite efforts to bring the county's important historic architecture before the public eye, the hour is already late for many buildings included in these pages. This publication hopefully gives recognition to the most significant structures in the county's "built environment"; whether that recognition develops into a purposeful plan for the preservation of these unique surroundings remains an as-yet unanswered question.

Randall H. Bennett
Bethel, Maine
September 1984



INTRODUCTION

Oxford County forms nearly three-quarters of Maine's western boundary with New Hampshire; its large size is such that most towns along its western border fall within the White Mountains, while the remainder consist of interesting combinations of lakes, rolling hills, and fertile river valleys. Having attained a substantial population between the end of the American Revolution and the first years of the nineteenth century, the county (named for a seventeenth century Massachusetts town) was "set off" from the northern portions of York and Cumberland counties on March 4, 1805. During the previous century, its settlement was hindered by a number of factors, among them being the dispute between the French and English for predominance in North America, the constant Indian threat, and the relatively secluded nature of this mountainous region as compared with Maine's already-developed coastline. Oxford County's first towns were granted as payment for services in either the French and Indian, or the Revolutionary War, and were under the jurisdiction of the Courts in Boston until the "District of Maine" severed its long connection with Massachusetts in 1820.

Concerning the Abenaki Indian presence in Oxford County much has been written, but only the most recent literary efforts have sought to distinguish between local folklore and the factual record. The relatively few archaeological excavations carried out in the area have, for the most part, been achieved by amateurs in the field. Though these efforts to uncover prehistoric sites in Oxford County have been well-intentioned, only the "dig" undertaken in 1980 at the "Vail Site" at Aziscohos Lake in the northern reaches of the county has been professionally supervised, in this case by both the Maine State Museum and the Buffalo Museum of Science. This Palaeo-Indian habitation and hunting place has been documented at some 11,000 years of age; it is currently one of the oldest known sites of its type in New England.

Probably the two most important Indian localities still deserving further investigation in Oxford County are the "Pequawket" (or "Pigwacket") village site on the Saco River at Fryeburg, and the "Rokomeca" site on the Androscoggin River at Canton Point. A close examination of these and other sites under professional guidelines and conditions will be necessary before a more accurate picture of former Indian lifestyles in Oxford County can be drawn.

Typifying the earliest years of white settlement in the county, Colonel Joseph Frye of Andover, Massachusetts, was granted a township in 1762 on the Saco River in the westernmost part of present-day Oxford County for his services in the French and Indian Wars; his arrival preceded by several years the movement of large numbers of people from overcrowded sections of Massachusetts and New Hampshire to western Maine. Taking its name from this first settler and early "proprietor," Fryeburg is significant as the earliest settled town in the White Mountain region, then an uninviting and largely unexplored wilderness.

Fryeburg developed along the fertile intervalles of the Saco River; the rich lowlands of other county river systems, namely the Androscoggin, Little Androscoggin, Ossipec, and Nezinscot, invited the early introduction of farming. With little variance, the construction of what were often the earliest frame

buildings within a settlement, saw and grist mills, usually took place a short time after initial clearings were made. During the late eighteenth century, the rivers of Oxford County provided the easiest means of reaching already-developed downriver towns, many of which served as trading stations. More importantly from an economic standpoint was the fact that during the next century the county's rivers provided the route to market of seemingly endless masses of timber.

By the time Maine achieved statehood, the majority of Oxford County's towns had gained enough population to pass from "plantation" to incorporated status. The town of Paris, settled in 1779, was designated the "shire town" of the new county in 1805, and the village at Paris Hill, located on a prominent height with sweeping views of the surrounding countryside, was selected as the site for the county's first courthouse, registry, and jail; in 1895, new county buildings were erected in the growing center of manufactures at South Paris Village, southwest of Paris Hill.

The period immediately after the Revolutionary War witnessed increased efforts to develop the resources of inland Maine. Between 1820 and the Civil War seven new counties were established in the state, and a number of towns on the periphery of Oxford County were absorbed into two of these, Androscoggin and Franklin counties. By 1860, when many of the county's agriculturally-oriented areas had reached their peak population, most of the late-settled plantations also became incorporated towns.

With the introduction of rail transportation, beginning in 1850-51 with the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, soon to become the Grand Trunk Railway (now the Canadian National Railroad), even the most secluded hamlets were within easy reach of both Portland to the south and Montreal to the north. In the 1870s, southern Oxford County towns had, in the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, a fast, efficient route to seacoast markets; this line, now the Maine Central Railroad, passed through western Oxford County on its way to Crawford Notch and the Connecticut River valley towns beyond. The Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad, and later the Maine Central, also pushed into the eastern sector of the county, building lines to Canton by 1870 and to Rumford Falls by the early 1890s. By 1900, a connection from Rumford Falls north to the Rangeley Lakes' region via the Swift River valley provided access to a resort area in summer and to a valuable timber supply in the winter.

The second half of the nineteenth century, in general, was a prosperous time for Oxford County's towns, with new types of industry, notably wool manufacturing and food processing, supplementing the economic mainstays of agriculture and lumbering. Notwithstanding, the development in the last years of the century of major industries such as papermaking, and the growth of town-based manufacturing, caused many rural areas to decline in productivity and population. In the end, several county communities were forced to surrender their charters, reverting to plantation or "wild land" status. For this reason, a sizable portion of the county today consists of a combination of federal or state-owned parkland, and paper company woodlands. In addition, large tracts of land between the

“Androscoggin Lakes” (Rangeley Lakes’ system) and the Border Mountains on the Maine/Quebec line are under the management of large timber and paper-producing concerns but continue their traditional role as popular destinations for outdoor enthusiasts.

The twentieth century has seen the introduction of new and diversified industry to Oxford County, and the expansion of businesses directed mainly toward seasonal tourism. With these changes has come the decline of the family farm and the disruption of long-established commercial activities operated by several generations of the same family. One longstanding characteristic that does remain, in part at least, from the earliest years of the county’s settlement, is the quality of remoteness. Though recent expansion along the Route 26 corridor promises to challenge the historic fabric of communities there, thoughtful planning has the potential of securing the most valuable parts of the built environment for future generations to enjoy.

The beginnings of Oxford County’s built environment can be placed with some accuracy at about 225 years ago — somewhere between the end of the French and Indian War (1759) and the ceding of Canada from France to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris (1763). A year previous to the latter event, three men spent the winter at Fryeburg (“Pequawket”) after having driven over a hundred cattle from Gorham, Maine, and pasturing them on the “great meadows” of the Saco River. The next year, 1763, saw the arrival of other settlers from coastal Maine; a valuable early document records that some half-dozen families ventured in November from Berwick and York on snowshoes and handsleds, but found only one “log house” in the settlement, in which they stayed until other shelter could be built.

The years between this initial development at Fryeburg, Oxford County’s oldest settled town, and the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775 can be said to represent the first construction phase of what were often meant to be temporary structures, though a few buildings with timber frames survive from this period. Importantly, Fryeburg contains the oldest documented structure extant in the county — the ell of the Squire Chase House (NR), built by Nathaniel Merrill before 1767.

Out of the very few reliable sources that shed light on this pre-Revolutionary period in western Maine emerge somewhat sketchy pictures of three distinct building types used for Oxford County’s first shelters. The first and the most primitive of the three was the log “camp” or “cabin” so often referred to in late nineteenth century town histories. Preceded on occasion by simple lean-to shelters with open fires for warmth, these early houses were constructed of round logs cut on-site and stacked together, with mud, moss, and anything else that would stick used in the spaces between them. These single-room houses were roofed in bark or with split slabs, fastened with wooden pins to the purlins that lay across the few rafters. Floors in more “advanced” examples were of split logs, but more likely were of tamped earth until framed houses introduced permanent flooring. Records also exist which document a second type of early construction, known most often as a “hewn-log” house. The obvious advantage in this instance was that the logs, being reasonably straight and well-hewn, fitted together better

and required less pointing with mud and mortar. Except for the fact that the earliest of Oxford County's hewn-log houses did not have the characteristic of sawn log construction, these buildings can be traced back to seventeenth century English models. The Levi Sargent House (ca. 1812) at Otisfield is the only known extant example of a hewn-log house from the county's settlement period. The third type of construction also found with some frequency in early county records was the "plank house." One surviving account states that "curtain walls were formed of rough-sawn plank hung vertically and sheathed with the widest clapboard available, butted to corner posts and trimmed at openings with flat members about three feet wide." Early Fryeburg records indicate that such houses necessarily lasted longer ("a century or more") and in several instances were finished both inside and out. In 1779, Jonathan Clark of Sudbury Canada (Bethel) is recorded as having built his "plank house" which, like other early structures near the intervals of the Androscoggin, was unfortunately destroyed in a 1785 flood. Portions of the David Ray House (1795 and later) at Otisfield contain remnants of vertical plank walls, and evidence suggests that other examples of this rare construction type may still exist in the county.

The people who settled Oxford County's oldest towns, in the period from the beginning of the Revolution through 1820, built their farms and villages in the same manner as their forebears had done, in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and the already-developed coastal towns of the District of Maine. Following the brief initial phase of temporary shelters and the rapid construction of saw mills at the county's numerous water power sites, vernacular buildings of timber frame with little or no architectural detail were raised. The terms of land grants almost uniformly required proprietors to establish a certain number of families on the land, and to erect a certain number of "frame dwellings" within a specified time period. It was these structures, created from abundant local materials, that served not only as homes, but as barns, taverns, mills, stores, and places of worship in the agricultural economy that developed in this portion of western Maine during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

In form, early frame domestic architecture in the county falls basically into two categories — the broad-roofed story-and-a-half house most often called a "Cape Cod," and the larger two or two-and-a-half story house with hipped or gable roof, most often labeled a "Colonial" or "Federal," depending on the amount and nature of the exterior decorative detail. Oxford County also contains one notable example of a Colonial period house with a gambrel roof, the Jesse Duston House (ca. 1780) at Hanover.

The so-called Cape is in fact the house form that became most prevalent in village and countryside throughout New England in the years of settlement. As built in the Oxford County region during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Cape represents the American development of the modest post-medieval yeoman's house whose forms were brought from England with the first settlers of Massachusetts. Its symmetrically-planned, central-chimneyed, predominantly low-posted character is both a consolidation of the seventeenth century versions and a simplification of them.

The Colonial or Federal two-story house is New England's version of the English manor house or "big house." As it developed in England and America throughout the eighteenth century, the style of such dwellings, when embellished with architectural detail, has been labeled "Georgian," after the English kings under whom colonial society flourished. As seen in the prosperous seacoast communities of Boston, Salem, and Portsmouth, the Georgian is a heavy, florid style, with rich decorative ornamentation of a classical character, derived through Renaissance practice from Greek and Roman models. By the end of the American Revolution, however, much of this heavy decoration was eliminated, with a more delicate, though still classical, form of decoration employed on houses of the same symmetrically-planned, rectangular form. This new stylistic development, a vernacular version of the English Adamesque style, strongly influenced the residences built by Federalist merchants and other successful entrepreneurs in the emerging American nation. In somewhat modified form, it is this style that forms the predominant number of Oxford County's oldest extant buildings.

Both late Colonial and Federal styles are evident in the more substantial houses built during the county's formative years. Several of the oldest extant examples display decorative finish characteristic of late Georgian development, though again on a more modest level. Only one such structure, the John Watson House (1785; NR) at Hiram, will be cited here. As an important example of the squire's mansion in a rural context, this hip-roofed house with massive central chimney has been characterized particularly well by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, as "the embodiment of eighteenth century Georgian architectural ideals expressed in the forthright terms of rural New England." Though alterations and additions in the Federal manner have taken place, the Watson House is indeed one of the most remarkable eighteenth century inland Maine houses of its period.

In Oxford County most, but not all, Federal style domestic architecture was built on a smaller scale and a less ambitious level than counterparts in urban areas of the state and may be accurately classed as vernacular or "folk" architecture. At the same time, extant examples often take a more functional, original approach which most often conveys a sense of freshness and vitality not found in the more academically correct types. As a rule, the lighter Federal decorative work begins to appear about 1800 in the county, more than a decade after its introduction into Maine's larger coastal communities. As in the majority of Maine examples of the style, the most important defining characteristic of the Federal mode as seen in the county is its emphasis on proportion, rather than "high style" exterior decoration. On the county's finest Federal style houses, the most characteristic decorative motif is, of course, the semi-elliptical arch over the central doorway, most often seen as a fan-like composition of wood louvers radiating from a scored decorative medallion. In the more developed towns of Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, and the Maine seacoast, this fan or "fanlight" is often more sophisticated and is frequently worked in leaded glass. An interesting example of this latter type may be seen on a Federal style house of 1806 on Route 5, just beyond the northern end of Fryeburg Village's Main Street. In addition, a handful

of the county's prototype Federal houses also have a Palladian-like, semi-circular fan with sidelights; several particularly notable examples of this type stand at Paris Hill Village. Oxford County's finest surviving Federal style house of wood is the Ambrose Knight House (ca. 1810), an outstandingly well-preserved survival within the Waterford Historic District.

While the most available material for Oxford County's early vernacular house forms based on English models was wood, a small number of Federal residences in the county were built in an important variation, having wooden front and rear walls, and brick end walls with paired chimneys. The Robinson-Parsons House (1803; NR) at Paris, the "Brick End House" (Dr. Timothy Carter House; 1816) at Bethel, and the Whitney House (ca. 1804) at Oxford are the only extant examples. The culmination of the Federal style in Oxford County is best represented by "Old Brick," the Samuel Rawson House (1813) at Paris Hill. This beautifully proportioned house with distinctive arched front doorway, Greek Revival enclosed side entrance porch, windows capped with splayed granite lintels, roof balustrade, and tall brick chimneys, is widely considered the finest Maine example of a three-storied brick mansion outside of Portland.

The most interesting vernacular buildings to appear during the Federal period are the "extended" or "connected" farmsteads which dot the county's landscape, and some of the most elaborate examples ever constructed in the county are to be found in the towns of Sweden, Denmark, and Fryeburg. In general, these buildings tend to possess little ornamentation and very few stylistic features, with the main focus instead placed on the structure's basic form. While many of the county's most important examples of vernacular architecture evidence this "stepped back" effect in having numerous attached dependencies, the results brought about by many remodelings, building relocations, and random additions make this the most difficult construction method to date accurately. Upon careful observation, the existence of early Capes attached as ells to later Federal five-bay gable-roofed houses becomes apparent; recent research seems to indicate that not until after ca. 1850 did the connected farmstead become a popular local building type, though earlier examples are well documented.

The era following the popularity of the Federal style can be properly characterized as one of "romantic eclecticism" in architecture, just as the romantic ideal became popular in American literary circles. A major consequence of this movement, especially as it affected buildings constructed after 1830 in Oxford County, was that a number of "styles," including the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and the Italianate were applied to earlier buildings or to those which followed traditional building forms.

Although the Greek Revival style, notable for its use of structural and decorative elements borrowed from Greek temple architecture, first appeared in America about 1800, it did not see widespread use until around 1820. In Maine, the Greek Revival was the predominant style from about 1835 to around 1850; in Oxford County, examples showing direct influences from the style were built well into the 1860s. Importantly, like all building styles that became popular before rail transportation revolutionized the movement of building materials, the Greek

Revival arrived late in the county and remained an accepted architectural motif long after it was out of vogue on the Maine coast.

Far from being a style confined to religious structures, though its influence there was particularly strong in the country, the Greek Revival had its greatest effect on domestic and commercial architecture. Regarding the former, Greek Revival decorative elements were often used on Capes and two-storied houses, but the style eventually introduced a new building type as well. The use of a flat triangular pediment with a cornice and frieze supported by columns of a classical order allowed the construction of buildings resembling Greek temples on the forested Maine landscape. Though many full-fledged "temples" were built free-standing in New England, the "town house" of side-hall plan, its gable end or short side to the street with its main entrance doorway placed asymmetrically to one side, eventually became the most characteristic building type of the Greek Revival. Indeed, it is of such modest vernacular houses that much of Oxford County's village architecture of the 1830s through the 1850s consists. Many rural adaptations of the style are also important as indicators of how Oxford County residents attempted to remain "up-to-date." A distinctive type of farmstead seen locally fuses an early Cape with a later side-hall-plan house, to form an L-shaped or T-shaped structure. In contrast, newly raised side-hall houses with Greek Revival trim were often constructed with ells that somewhat resemble early Capes, though they are not. For commercial and educational structures, the gable-to-the-street form was also adopted, and colonnaded porches graced county taverns, hotels, and schools, though no examples remain extant. Simplification of forms and adaptation to local materials and skills tended toward the rendering of classical columns as wide corner boards (pilasters), and the delineation of pediments in broad, simple moldings. Where columns actually appear, they are most often found on porches of one story, and are recurrently squared, becoming more properly piers or pillars. Perhaps the most interesting vernacular Greek Revival house in the county, and the only prostyle type extant, is the Jeremiah Wardwell House (ca. 1840-45) at Rumford Corner. On this much-altered example the facade consists of a pediment with a wide but plain entablature supported by four square wooden pillars with inset panels. Though the Wardwell House is now concealed beneath a layer of unsympathetic asphalt siding, photographic evidence supports the notion that this was one of the most ambitious styled residences in the county when built.

The somewhat reserved repertoire of forms from the several revival styles evident in Oxford County is not accidental. While most towns of any size attained an adequate, local prosperity by the mid-nineteenth century, one rarely finds a group of buildings where notions of thrift and practicality do not in some measure dictate reserve in a structure's overall design. There are some exceptions, but they are less often in the Greek Revival than in the cross-gabled vernacular Gothic Revival style, where steep, deep-eaved roofs are frequently edged with elaborately carved or sawn bargeboards. Several houses in this mode still stand in the towns of Buckfield, West Paris, and Bethel. Probably the finest extant example of the Gothic Revival in the county is the Elisha F. Stone House (1854-55; NR) at South Paris Village.

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Of other styles popular at mid-century, the county has several important buildings in a "bracketed" or Italianate style, though their decorative elements are often merely added to a building basically Greek Revival or earlier in overall character. Two houses which best reflect the Italianate style in the county are the Samuel D. Philbrook House (ca. 1879) at Bethel Hill and the James Lot Hill House (ca. 1860) in East Hiram.

The slightly later French Empire style, in which the top story of the building has a French or "Mansard" roof, was also used sparingly in Oxford County. Nevertheless, several good examples have survived in the towns of Paris, Denmark, and Rumford. The Weston House (1870) on Bridge Street in Fryeburg is the county's most important and best preserved example of a mansard-roofed house in a rural context.

The Octagon house, while really a form of architecture and not a style as such, never became a popular type of construction for Maine buildings, though the state retains a few examples, mostly raised in the 1850s and 1860s. Based on a book published by Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist and theorist in a variety of areas, the octagon type appears in both wood and brick, usually displaying Italianate characteristics, though examples in Maine were built with both Gothic and Greek Revival decorative elements. The last octagonal building constructed in Maine in the nineteenth century and one of the very few ever built in Oxford County (excluding bandstands and gazebos) is the Andover Public Library (1899), originally built as a church for the local Universalist congregation. In general, the fashion for houses in an octagonal shape seems to have died out in Maine by 1860; the vernacular interpretation at Andover is a final tribute to mid-nineteenth century romanticism in New England.

Oxford County's early industrial architecture, like its domestic dwellings, was characterized by a natural appearance deeply rooted in tradition. Most of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century grist and saw mills, Oxford County's first factories, were also some of the first permanent framed structures to be raised in the region. For example, the Twitchell Grist and Saw Mill (built in 1774 and now destroyed) was the first recorded frame structure in Bethel, preceding the first framed house there by five years. Because the county's eighteenth century mills were soon superseded by technological advances, and because they were almost invariably made of wood, no examples from this time survive.

Probably the oldest extant Oxford County mill, and one which typifies the simple, functional methods of construction employed before the introduction of large textile mills into Maine, is the Oliver Hapgood Carding Mill (ca. 1810), originally built at South Waterford Village but moved and re-erected at Old Sturbridge Village at Sturbridge, Massachusetts, in 1963. A shingle-covered story-and-a-half wooden structure, the Hapgood Mill contains exposed framing, a water-powered tub wheel, and early wool-carding machinery.

Closer at hand is one of Maine's most historic early nineteenth century water-powered industrial structures, the Andrews Mill ("Casket Factory") at South Woodstock Village. Built about 1826 as an up-and-down saw mill, the Woodstock structure retains later turbine-powered machinery that operates today; as such, it qualifies as the county's most significant example of a small pre-Civil War mill.

Just upstream of the original Hapgood Mill site at South Waterford Village is the William W. Watson Salt Box Factory, built between 1825 and 1845 and converted into a cider mill in this century. Like the Andrews Mill, this structure conveys a valuable picture of the area's early water-powered village mills.

Though the great mill complexes at Lewiston and Biddeford had been established by the 1850s, change came slowly to Oxford County, and most of the larger mill structures built before the Civil War were still constructed in wood (though a few featured distinctive stairtowers and bell cupolas). Until the huge wood pulp mills were built at Rumford Falls in the 1890s, the town of Oxford's five-story brick Robinson Manufacturing Company (1863) was undoubtedly the finest brick mill structure ever raised in the county. This massive building, designed with Greek Revival detailing, had raised brick panels acting as pilaster strips and a six-story central stair tower surmounted by an open belfry. The Robinson Mill was heavily damaged by fire in 1866, though portions of the original structure are visible today.

Outside the area of industrial structures, but important parts of the county's technological heritage, are the five extant covered bridges within its boundaries (over half the number surviving in Maine), and such engineering feats as the Azischohos Dam (1909) at Lincoln Plantation and the Memorial Bridge (1929), a soaring concrete and steel span at Rumford Falls.

The coming of the railroads joined the county's villages to New England's urban centers and made the design resources of the Victorian era readily available to local builders. Few, however, actually used the full repertoire of later Victorian design and fewer still left their signatures. The ostentatious and often exaggerated styles that flourished elsewhere in the country following the Civil War do appear infrequently however, and interesting examples exist in Fryeburg, Mexico, Bethel, Norway, and Paris. Simple cross-gabled houses with bracketed porches, remotely derived from Gothic Revival and Italianate models, are also plentiful. In great part, however, late nineteenth century plans and forms are "balloon frame" adaptations of earlier building forms, appearing most often as side-hall-plan houses and symmetrically-arranged story-and-a-half and two-storied houses. Exceptions to the rather stayed momentum exhibited by much of the county's late nineteenth century architecture exist in the form of public or semi-public buildings, commercial blocks, and church structures, many of which display eclectic combinations from several styles.

The new Oxford County Courthouse built at South Paris Village in 1895 makes use of a lavish style which combines Victorian Queen Anne and early twentieth century Colonial Revival design motifs. Set on an imposing site above the village, this massive structure is a typical product of the grandiose, chauvinistic age through which the nation as a whole was passing. Dixfield's recently demolished Harlow Block (1878), a brick, mansard-roofed commercial building and hotel, was an earlier and highly important example of this Victorian optimism in architecture.

An entire community which displays the opulence of this period is Rumford Falls, the planned "city in the wilderness" which sprang up at the command of

industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm. As the newly-created population center for the town of Rumford, its major downtown commercial buildings eventually formed an enclave of high-style Beaux Arts Classical and Colonial Revival structures in a community whose architecture previously reflected a rural agrarian economy. In Strathglass Park, also at Rumford Falls, Chisholm even constructed a walled garden suburb of semi-detached late Victorian villas.

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, several other county towns produced their own forward-looking commercial monuments typified by Norway's Opera House (1894) and Fryeburg's Shingle style Oxford House hotel, the latter destroyed by fire in 1906. This towered Fryeburg hostelry, which in its turn-of-the-century form replaced a large Greek Revival hotel of the mid-nineteenth century, thrived on a burgeoning tourist trade, as did resort hotels in the nearby White Mountain towns of Lovell, Bethel, and Newry. As agriculture declined, many farmsteads became summer boarding houses, and the county, like the rest of northern New England, began to market its environment.

The development of ecclesiastical architecture was another area that evolved in differing ways from that of domestic architecture. Church building during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries began with the spireless, rectangular, timber-framed meetinghouses of the settlement period, vernacular versions of the two-storied galleried types built throughout the eighteenth century in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and parts of coastal Maine. Though no eighteenth century examples of this type survive in Oxford County, the Porter Meetinghouse (NR), begun in 1818 and completed in 1824, has the stark, galleried interior of much earlier structures. Surviving in near original condition, it remains one of the most outstanding structures of its type in northern New England.

In the period when Calvinistic doctrine rejected the idea of meetinghouses as holy places, the few such structures, as distinct from "churches," were used for both religious and secular purposes. Two now-destroyed buildings that were fine local examples of the "rectangular preaching box" type were the Otisfield Meetinghouse (1795), replaced by the present Bell Hill Meetinghouse (1837-39), and the Paris Hill Baptist Meetinghouse (1803), supplanted by the present Baptist Church built near the same site in 1838. The galleried Paris Hill structure, with its "lofty massive tower" on the east gable end, was probably the most distinctive example of its type ever raised in Oxford County. The fact that the present Paris Hill Church (the only church in the county with a full facade portico) rests on a brick basement story designed expressly for town use, gives some indication, even at this late date, of how embedded in tradition church/state practices continued to be.

Other, more modest examples of the meetinghouse type still standing in Oxford County are the Sweden Congregational Church (ca. 1818-23), now extensively altered on the interior but recorded as having "galleries, box pews and high pulpit" as late as 1907, and the Rumford Center Meetinghouse (1828), which retains interesting Federal style detailing on the exterior.

Across New England, the simple box-like early meetinghouses were often succeeded by graceful, steepled Federal style structures, the best extant county

example of which is the Union Church (1831-32) at Buckfield. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, local church structures were buildings on which the accumulated resources of well-established communities were strongly focused. A product of this effort in Oxford County is the remarkably complete Fryeburg Congregational Church, a Greek Revival design that displays free-standing Doric columns framed between piers or *antae*. In 1879, Fryeburg also produced the only major Stick style building in the county in its New Church (Swedenborgian). Italianate and Gothic-influenced Victorian remodelings in Norway and South Paris villages late in the century recast Federal style church structures in a more eclectic character. The fanciful decorative elements of the South Paris Baptist Church of 1885 exist in tandem with a tent-like tabernacle plan, producing one of the most outstanding wooden late Victorian churches in the region. Rumford's churches are, in general, those of a small city or fashionable turn-of-the-century suburb and consist mainly of Shingle, late Gothic Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Rumford also has a small church built entirely of stream-smoothed cobblestones. By 1925, a large settlement of French-speaking Canadian-Americans, drawn to Rumford Falls by the paper-making industry, had produced St. Athanasius-St. John Church, a cathedral-size double-towered church of brick and stone.

With the construction of churches for individual congregations, several county communities built "town houses," a building type that saw widespread use throughout much of New England after the close of the Federal period. Important examples of the town house type exist today in Fryeburg, Oxford, and Waterford.

As is the case with most of rural Maine, Oxford County contains little twentieth century architecture that reflects national trends in building as seen in the country's urban centers. The most important examples extant from the pre-World War II period are civic and educational structures, erected in larger communities like Rumford Falls and at campuses such as Hebron and Gould academies. Continuing trends formed at the turn-of-the-century, these impressive designs almost always fall into the Colonial Revival mode. Like much of southwestern Maine, the county also contains a sampling of Bungalow style houses, such as those at Norway, South Paris, and South Rumford. Double houses in a vernacular Colonial Revival or Bungalow-like style are to be found in Mexico, West Paris, and West Peru. Post-World War II domestic architecture has taken the form of the revived single-family Cape or "ranch" house. The last twenty years have seen the county's landscape dotted with the ubiquitous mobile home, the result of a society obsessed with large-scale manufacturing and consumption.

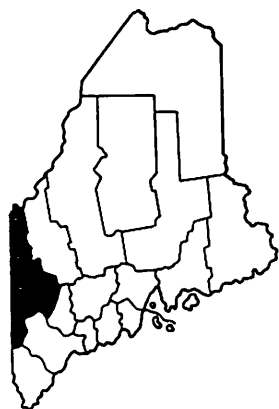
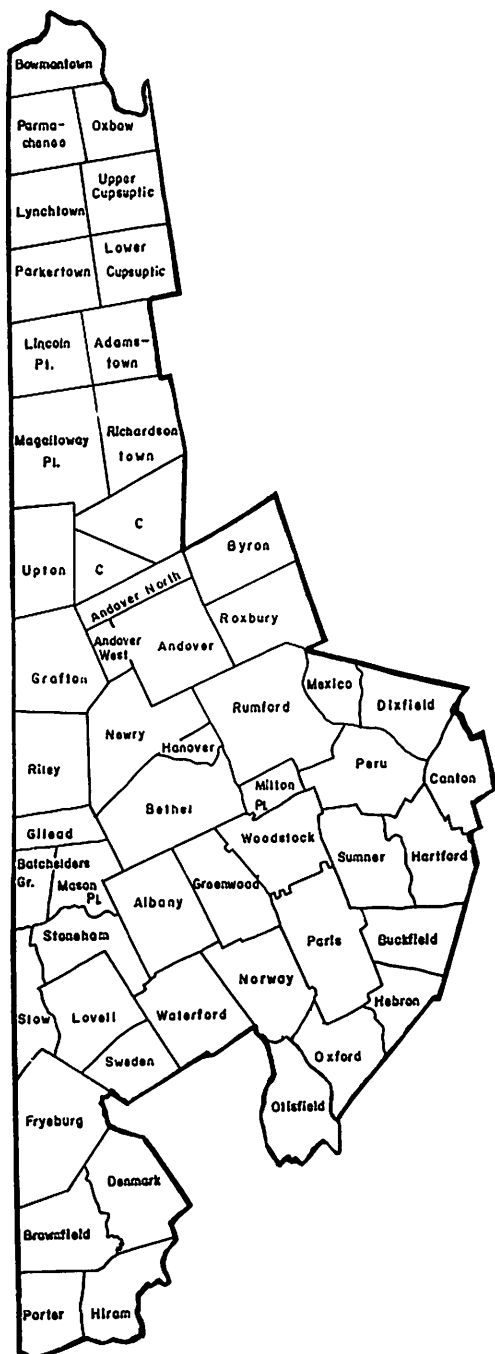
Oxford County's historic architecture exists far from those geographical centers where America's major eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century building styles and forms originated; for this reason, the local built environment most often reveals the vernacular adaptation of forms, plans, and decorative devices developed elsewhere. Due also to this somewhat remote location, however, the arrangement of villages within towns often reflects the original late eighteenth and early nineteenth century settlement patterns, a characteristic that has disappeared in more populated areas of Maine. Despite the ongoing demolition of irreplaceable examples of the county's architectural

heritage, and the thoughtless intrusion of buildings that fail to consider the historic environment, a great number of aesthetically significant structures still remain to describe the county's social, political, and economic history. In recognizing the need to conserve this valuable resource, current residents have an opportunity to preserve the best of the past for future generations.

Note on the Text and Maps

. Each of the towns, plantations, and townships discussed in the text is accompanied by a map which locates all of the major buildings listed for that area (additional structures and sites are often appended at the end of each coded entry). Map locations, when possible, are numbered from *north* to *south*; those using this book as an auto tour guide should note the road being traveled as well as the position of adjoining communities on the large county map at the beginning of the text (this map is the only one drawn to scale).

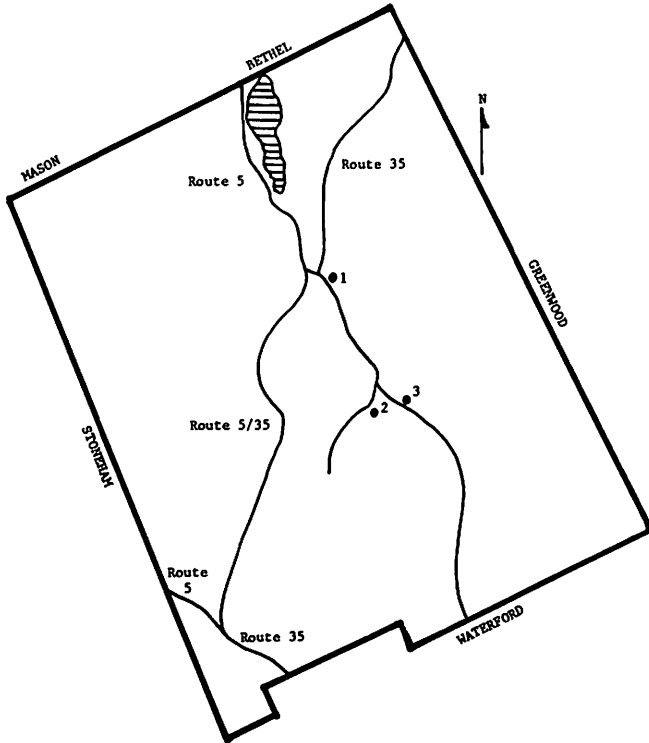
An attempt has been made to date structures as accurately as possible; where dates could be approximated only, the notation "ca." (circa) is used. For the most part, buildings have been identified by the name of the original owner (when known), often in combination with the property's common or historic name. Though some of the structures covered are open to the public, the majority are privately owned, and readers are asked to respect that privacy when visiting them.



OXFORD COUNTY



ALBANY TOWNSHIP



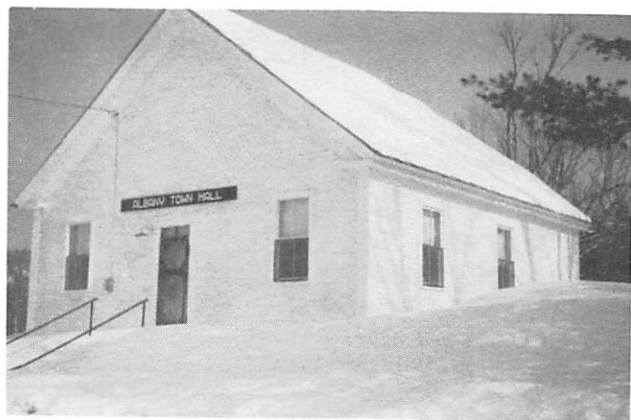
INTRODUCTION

The former Oxford County town of Albany, now "Albany Township" with the surrender in 1937 of its charter, was first established in 1788 when a group of Andover, Massachusetts, men purchased a "tract of land between Sudbury Canada and Waterford." Between 1788 and 1791 the mountainous acreage was first surveyed and given the official name "Township Number Five." Sometime before the petition for incorporation, the area became known as the "Plantation of Oxford."

Though several records indicate that one, John Lovejoy, was living within Albany's bounds by 1784, Abner Holt is usually given the distinction of being the first to fell trees within the town in 1791. Despite the suggestion of "Montgreen" at the time of incorporation, the name "Albany" was substituted and the region given town status in June 1803.

Timber-cutting was, as in the case of most Oxford County towns, of major importance to the first settlers here. With its numerous rivers and streams, including the Crooked River (once proposed as an extension of the then-successful Cumberland and Oxford Canal), Albany early supported a number of water-powered mills. In 1793, Benjamin Proctor raised a grist mill in the southern part of town. Later acquired by John Lynch, the mill's immediate surroundings quickly took on the name "Lynch's Mills" and later, "Lynchville" (the site today of Maine's well-publicized "International Sign"). As well, a mid-nineteenth century survey indicated a vast array of similar businesses operating in the town, including shingle, stave, spool, and clover mills, and a chair factory. During the second half of the nineteenth century, farming ruled as a major occupation, though the endless stone walls in the town today testify to how difficult a task it was to clear this upland location. In the twentieth century, several once-prosperous farmsteads were the scene of active mining operations, mainly for feldspar, quartz, and beryl.

Today little remains beyond a few scattered farms and the handful of public buildings that stand, mostly idle, near the junction of Routes 5 and 35. Importantly, a wealth of photographic material, as well as a major collection of early Albany town records, is maintained and preserved at the nearby headquarters of the Bethel Historical Society. Albany's population in 1880 was 693. The last reported census, that for the year 1960, listed only 228 individuals residing in the "Township."



A-1. TOWN HALL ("Town House")
ca. 1845. Junction of Routes 5 and 35

This broad-gabled, story-and-a-half, vernacular three-bay structure was raised sometime around 1850 to house the records and municipal offices of the town of Albany. The modest clapboard-covered building remained the center of local

government until 1937, when, due to declining population and increasing taxes, the town charter was surrendered to the state.

Well-maintained but infrequently used by the Oxford County commissioners (who administer the former town's affairs), the "Town House," as it is called, is a lasting and important reminder of this once-thriving Maine community.

South of the Albany Town Hall, on the road to "Hunt's Corner" (named for John Hunt, a nineteenth century tavern keeper who remained in business for over fifty years), is the Albany Cattle Pound (ca. 1825), a much-neglected structural type once found in nearly every Oxford County town.



A-2. AMOS BEAN HOUSE

ca. 1840-50. Hunt's Corner, off Routes 5 and 35

The Amos Bean House dates from the middle of the nineteenth century and was probably built by Leonard Town, who was living there in 1858. Standing in the center of the township and at the intersection of several well-traveled roads, the house was used for many years as the Albany post office. A later owner, Amos Bean, was long active as postmaster, gunsmith, shoemaker, and jeweler. Wounded at Spotsylvania with a bullet through the hip, Bean was unable to carry out "heavy work" throughout the remainder of his lifetime.

The Bean House is a fine symmetrically-arranged vernacular Greek Revival structure with a three-bay facade and inset doorway. The side walls are broken by a returning cornice, giving a pedimented effect to the gable ends. Though small in size, the house is given vertical emphasis by its tall nine-over-six paned windows which reach all the way to the cornice on the second story. This emphasis on height is continued by the two end chimneys. A story-and-a-half ell extends to the rear and contains the house's more functional rooms. At one time the front yard

was enclosed by a white picket fence (a typical feature with many nineteenth century county houses), and just beyond stood two story-and-a-half frame structures, one of which was Amos Bean's "shop."

South of the Bean House is the Lovejoy House, an early nineteenth century Cape later rebuilt in a vernacular Gothic Revival mode.



A-3. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1877-78. Hunt's Corner, off Routes 5 and 35

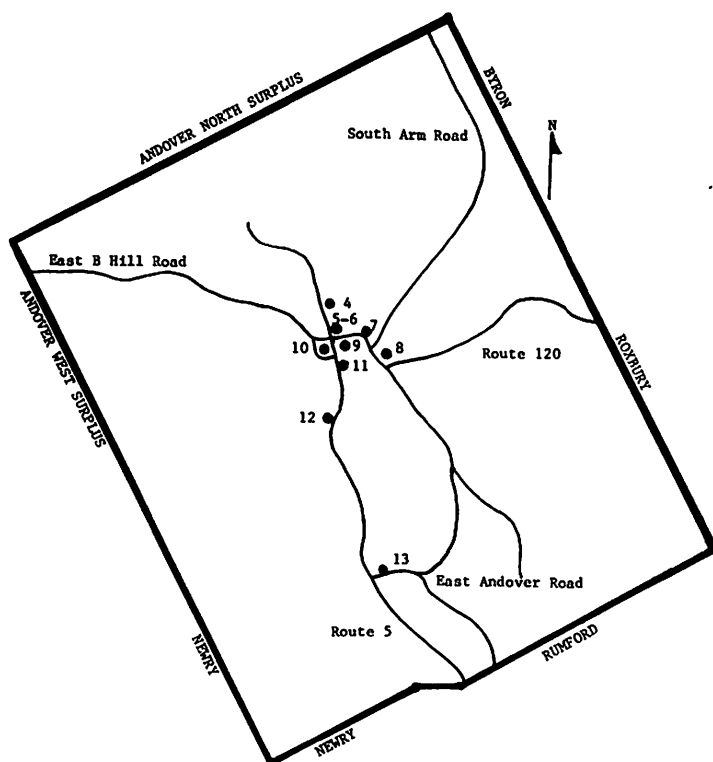
The Albany Congregational Church, which stands on a hillside site commanding an impressive view of the western Maine mountains, is one of only three public buildings left in this now-unincorporated Oxford County township. A high-posted, story-and-a-half structure with two entrance doors in the facade gable end, the church is an 1877-78 reconstruction of a meetinghouse built in 1831-32. The earlier building stood "on a little common" between the villages of Hunt's Corner and North Waterford. It was rededicated in June of 1878 after being "rebuilt and greatly improved."

The exterior appearance of the church exhibits elements from both the Greek Revival and the Italianate styles, while remaining a very simple structure in form. Each of the building's side walls displays three tall, multi-paned windows with flat moldings and projecting cornices. The two entry doors on the south wall have transom lights and simple entablatures with projecting cornices. In addition, the gable facade is distinguished by a rosette wheel-window which, with the large church sign just below it, sets off an otherwise plain clapboarded surface. Similar in form to many "town houses" in the county, the church has corner pilasters and a wide cornice with paired brackets. The clapboarded basement story has full window and door openings only on the west and north walls, due to the structure's side-hill location. The building is still used infrequently for religious

services (first held a few months after incorporation in 1803) and stands as a reminder of Albany's earlier period of agricultural prosperity.

West of the church and further down the hill stands the Round Mountain Grange Hall, a two-and-a-half story frame vernacular structure built in 1909. The grange in Albany was organized in 1875 and in 1884 purchased a store which once stood below the present structure. Sharing a fate suffered by other county granges, the organization recently disbanded.

ANDOVER



INTRODUCTION

One of the northernmost towns in Oxford County, Andover traces its earliest beginnings to the year 1787, when two representatives of a group of Massachusetts men journeyed into the wilderness that was western Maine in search of a new township where land was inexpensive but plentiful. At the suggestion of Colonel John York of Sudbury Canada (Bethel), an area to its north was investigated and determined to have the potential for agricultural development and for the construction of water-powered mills. The township was purchased from Massachusetts in 1788 and immediately surveyed into lots of one hundred acres. Ezekiel Merrill of Newbury, Massachusetts, had cleared land here previous to the actual sale; he became the first settler when he moved his family up the Ellis River and into a log house in May 1789. Enoch Adams of Andover, Massachusetts, was the town's second settler; the initial survey of the community is attributed to him.

Colonel Thomas Poor, another early resident, was given land in exchange for building the town's first saw and grist mills, erected in 1791. Many families came via a road laid out from New Pennacook (Rumford) to the south, and in 1804 the area was incorporated as "East Andover" in honor of Andover, Massachusetts, from which a majority of the earliest settlers came. The name of the town was shortened to "Andover" in 1821 when Maine statehood eliminated the need to distinguish between the old and new towns.

Subsistence farming, small-scale lumbering, and a variety of home-based industries provided residents of the town with a livelihood during much of the nineteenth century. Bypassed by the county's railroad lines (though one of the country's greatest railroad promoters, John Alfred Poor, was born here), Andover was nevertheless a popular resort for sportsmen and sightseers in the years between the Civil War and the turn-of-the-century, when a rail line built from Rumford Falls to the Rangeley Lakes' area eliminated the rough stage journey from Andover to the Richardson Lakes. In the twentieth century, wood-turning mills have filled a gap left by the decline of agriculture. Both skiing and telecommunication by satellite (via the world's first "earth station") have had a pronounced effect on Andover's rural character in recent years.

Of Andover's former residents, several have helped shape the historical development of Oxford County and western Maine in general. One of the last surviving Pequawket Indians, Molly Ockett lived among the settlers of Bethel, Fryeburg, Paris, and Andover, and returned to the latter in the last months of her life. A woman admired for her knowledge of medicine and her use of herbal remedies, Molly Ockett remains today as Oxford County's most important link with its original inhabitants. The second minister of the Andover Congregational Church, Thomas T. Stone was born in nearby Waterford. In 1830, while serving the church here, Stone authored the book *Sketches of Oxford County*, a religious/historical tract that was the first published work to focus specifically on Oxford County, created only fifteen years previous. Stone left Andover after several years and besides writing additional religious tracts, became an outspoken opponent of southern slave practices. Finally, two brothers born in Andover, Henry Varnum Poor and John Alfred Poor, went on to become highly successful railroad promoters. Henry V. Poor was editor and part owner of the influential *American Railroad Journal* and later published *Poor's Manual of the Railroads of the United States*. John A. Poor was one of the first Americans to foresee the giant role of railroads in the transformation of society. The leading spirit in the construction of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad (later the Grand Trunk), Poor also planned the European and North American Railroad, which, if built, would have reduced the shipboard travel between the two continents by one-half.

Andover currently records some 850 citizens, seventy more than listed in the town's 1880 census. Andover Village (formerly "Andover Corner") and East Andover contain much of the population, with several "neighborhoods" of nineteenth century farmsteads still much in evidence.

A-4. LESLIE HOUSE ("Glen Ellis")

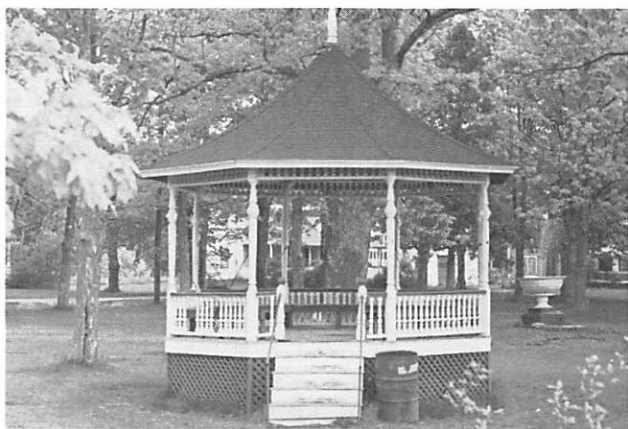
1905. Upper Main Street (Off Route 5)

RAND HOUSE

1915

The Leslie House is a gambrel-roofed, two-and-a-half story house with cupola which was built for Dr. E. F. Leslie in 1905 as a hospital/sanitorium. It was named "Glen Ellis" after the nearby Ellis River, which empties into the Androscoggin at Rumford Point Village. Here Dr. Leslie took in patients with pneumonia and other illnesses, and successfully treated those with nervous disorders through a cure that took full advantage of Andover's elevated mountain location. The rambling wood frame building serves as a reminder of the many large summer hotels and seasonal "retreats" that once dotted the village's main street.

Across the road is the large, brick Rand House built in 1915. The only structure in town built of brick before 1930, the Rand House displays a combination of Colonial Revival and contemporary elements. The two-and-a-half story facade displays a projecting two-story semi-circular brick bay to the south, and a wrap-around porch on the remaining wall area. Among the interesting original features are a balustraded deck atop the dormered hip roof and an elevator, installed by the first owner to raise wood from the basement to the fireplaces and stoves in the floors above.

**A-5. BANDSTAND**

ca. 1890s. Main and Elm Streets (Junction of Routes 5 and 120)

The bandstand on Andover's Common symbolizes Victorian tastes prevalent during the town's heyday as a summer resort and stopping-off point on the route to the "Androscoggin Lakes" to the north. Built most likely in the 1890s, the

eight-sided structure has a platform several feet from the ground and enclosed by latticework. The open level is surrounded by a railing with spindle and spool-like balusters; eight turned posts support a tent roof with wooden finial. Between the tops of the posts is a frieze with shorter but similar spindles to those below.

Though every county town of any size once sported a bandstand or outdoor pavilion of some type, the example at Andover is the only one which remains.



A-6. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1830, 1863, 1966. Elm Street (Route 120)

Ezekiel Merrill, Jr., son of the town's first settler, gave the land that now forms the town Common and the site of the Congregational Church. Originally raised in 1830 as a box-like, gable-roofed meetinghouse, the white, clapboarded structure seen today is a local interpretation of the Italianate style carried out in an 1863 remodeling. According to newspaper reports, Moses C. Foster, of Bethel, was the architect for the reconstruction, which included raising and lengthening the building, adding the projecting pavilion and steeple, and refurbishing the interior, all "to conform to the modern style of Church architecture." A two-story "Education Building" in sympathetic style was added to the rear of the church in 1966. The present interior is notable for its heavy oak pews and impressive pipe organ within the sanctuary. The Andover Church is similar to, but less elaborate than, the Congregational Church at North Waterford Village (see W-2), a design by Bethel architect Thomas Holt who, tradition has it, assisted Foster with the Andover design.

A-7. SUTER HOUSE

ca. 1890s. Route 120

Built in the late nineteenth century for the Rev. John W. Suter by Charles Cushman, a local carpenter, this two-and-a-half story house bears a strong resemblance to many coastal "cottages" built in fashionable resorts during the same period. While there are several details taken from Colonial Revival motifs, the use of an encompassing gambrel roof in combination with shingle-covered walls qualifies the building as Shingle style. The house stands near the intersection of Route 120 and the "South Arm Road" to the Richardson Lakes; its siting on a high promontory above the Ellis River allows it one of the finest views of Andover Village and the mountains to the west.



A-8. MERRILL-POOR HOUSE

1791, 1896. Route 120 (NR)

The imposing mansion of Henry Varnum Poor, rebuilt from the 1791 home of his grandfather, Ezekiel Merrill, is the oldest structure now standing in Andover. The house reflects the evolution of a prominent New England family, as well as changing tastes in architectural style. Built originally as a five-bay hip-roofed Federal structure with two interior chimneys and a story-and-a-half ell to one side, the house passed from Andover's first settlers, Ezekiel Merrill and his wife, to their daughter and son-in-law, the Sylvanus Poors. Their son, Henry Varnum Poor, earned notoriety in the world of railroad promotion and development; at his retirement in 1890, he purchased the old house in Andover from other family members and began a program of refurbishment.

The general eighteenth century appearance of the house today is actually the Colonial Revival creation of Boston architect Edward C. Cabot. Cabot's remodel-

ing included the addition of the facade portico and porch, the re-introduction of small-paned sash, and the replacement of the hipped roof and double chimney arrangement with a dormered gable roof and a central chimney. On this chimney is a recessed panel with the inscription "EM 1791," a record of the completion date of the first house and its owner. Cabot also made major changes to the interior of the old house. While he retained the late eighteenth century entrance hall with its staircase, as well as the original paneling in the parlors flanking it on either side, he created to the rear a large dining room running the entire width of the house. The remainder of the building was refashioned into a maze of bedrooms which resembles a small summer hotel of the period.

In 1896, Henry V. Poor replaced the original barn with a remarkable structure variously referred to as the "New House," the "Great Hall," and the "Studio." This massive rectangular building, which tradition states was designed by noted architect Stanford White, includes an immense room of Gothic motif containing three-inch-thick oak doors and a ten-foot-high fireplace with a stone mantel. A large window in one wall reaches from the floor to the heavily-timbered cathedral ceiling. With its dark furnishings and impressive library, the effect was one of a grand baronial lodge. The addition of carriageways, walkways, bowers, and two log cabins designed by the landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, transformed the former frontier home into an estate unequalled in this part of Maine. The house and grounds remain today in the hands of Merrill descendants.



A-9. TOWN HALL/GRANGE HALL

1869 and later. Elm Street (Route 120)

The Andover Town Hall/Grange Hall is a rambling, clapboard-covered vernacular structure begun in 1869. The local grange ("Lone Mountain") was chartered in 1875 and used the large second-story hall for a century before

disbanding. As originally planned, the town hall and library occupied rooms on the first floor. The two-and-a-half story building stands as originally constructed except for an addition attached to the rear and extending off to one side, built to house selectmen's offices and kitchen facilities for the grange. The building was originally surmounted by an octagonal cupola with tent roof; by 1906 this had been replaced with the present clock tower and bell, the gift of "The King's Daughters," a group of local women. The most notable interior feature is the large stage curtain installed on the second floor in 1928; on it, surrounding an idyllic scene reminiscent of the work of Maxfield Parish, are colorful advertisements of area businesses of the time.

Next door, to the east, is the headquarters of the Andover Historical Society, organized in 1975. A small, gable-roofed building with a windowed facade, the wooden structure was long used as a store.



A-10. PUBLIC LIBRARY

1899. Church Street off Route 5 (NR)

The Andover Public Library, located in a former Universalist Church of unusual design, has its origins in a Library Association organized in 1795. This first society was dissolved in the 1840s; in 1891, a new library was organized and took up space at the Town Hall (see A-9). The Universalist Church, long unused, was deeded to the town for a library in 1943.

Of octagonal shape, with slightly wider front and rear walls, the wood frame former church structure was completed in 1903. The building has a steeply pitched roofline which once boasted ornamental roof cresting. On the interior, the main room (now the library's stack area) is a vast space sheathed in matched boards of brown ash cut locally. Suspended from the ceiling trusses is a large wrought-iron chandelier.

The Andover Public Library is the last nineteenth century example in Maine of the octagonal design; along with a nearby bandstand (see A-5), it is the only nineteenth century representative of this building form in Oxford County.



A-11. GOULD-MILLS HOUSE

ca. 1860s. Lower Main Street (Route 5)

The Gould-Mills House is an interesting transitional structure which combines Greek Revival and Italianate design elements into an attractive composition. Probably constructed by local builders in the 1860s, the two-and-a-half story side-hall plan house has a slightly lower (and much plainer) rear ell with an attached, gable-roofed barn. The main block, which faces the village's main street, has a sidelighted entrance doorway and very tall first floor windows. In contrast to the wide, but otherwise plain corner pilasters and eaves moldings used here is an elaborate wrap-around porch, supported by heavy chamfered posts with wooden brackets. The general effect somewhat reduces the feeling of height conveyed by the rather narrow main block. Of architectural interest on the attached barn's street facade is a tripart, multi-paned window, formerly used on an early village meetinghouse. In the later nineteenth century, a fence with heavy posts and crossbars enclosed much of the grounds.

In the general vicinity of the Gould-Mills House are several vernacular residential and commercial structures of local design interest.

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A-12. SYLVANUS POOR HOUSE ("The Homestead")

ca. 1793, ca. 1844 and later. Route 5

The Poores settled on the west side of the Ellis River valley and erected a house there in the 1790s. According to one source, the house was partially finished by 1793 and nearly in its present size by the year 1844; the heavy Greek Revival eaves moldings and corner pilasters undoubtedly date from this later period. As in the case of the Merrill-Poor House a short distance to the north (see A-8), there are also indications of extensive Colonial Revival alterations to the building, probably done in the 1890s. The interior contains wall paneling and fireplace construction closely paralleling that of the Merrill-Poor House. The main, gable-roofed block has two interior chimneys that obviously date from this turn-of-the-century remodeling.

The house's size (four stories on the gable ends) conveys more the sense of a hotel than a single-family residence; indeed, it became known as "The Homestead" during a long run (until 1942) as a popular summer boarding house. The building was the site of the town's first library (1795) and later housed the first post office (1824) in Andover. Tradition also gives this as the location of the first meeting to plan a railroad from Portland, Maine, to Montreal, Quebec, in 1845. Several major outbuildings, including two large barns, remain on the property.

Of interest nearby is the cast iron fencing on two sides of the Woodlawn Cemetery where, among others, is buried Molly Ockett, a well-known western Maine Indian midwife and doctress who died in 1816.

A-13. LOVEJOY BRIDGE

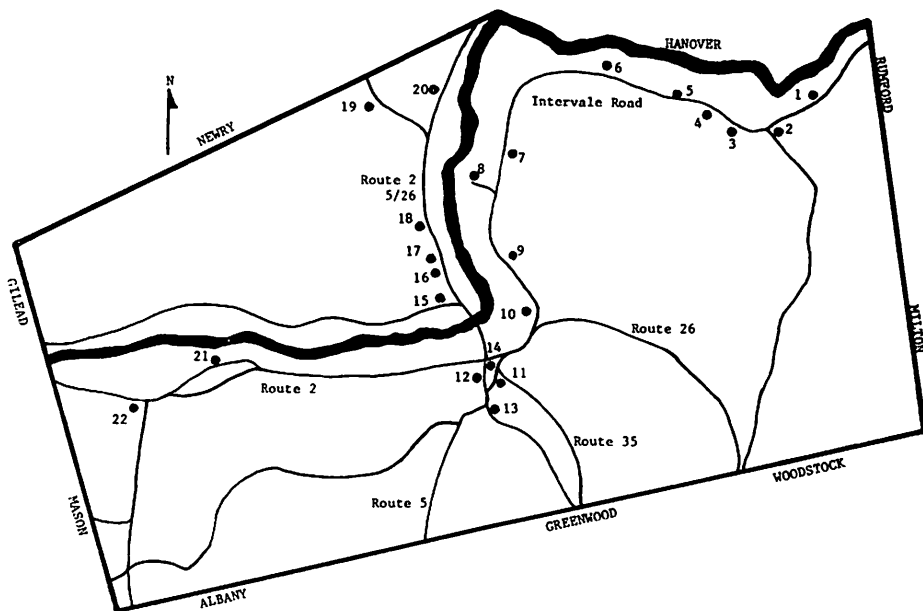
1867. Off Route 5 at South Andover (NR)

The Lovejoy Bridge was constructed in 1867 over the Ellis River; it is the only



survivor of the three covered bridges erected in the nineteenth century in Andover. Today, the venerable span is Maine's shortest covered bridge and one of five examples of the type remaining in Oxford County (over half the number extant in the state). Of Paddleford construction with vertical and diagonal members covered on the exterior by vertical board sheathing, the bridge has clapboarded gable ends traditionally painted white.

BETHEL



INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1768 as "Sudbury Canada," a name that honors the original grantees from Sudbury, Massachusetts, who engaged in a campaign to conquer Canada in 1690, Bethel lies in the upper Androscoggin River valley where high mountains shadow broad intervalles utilized by local Indians until the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Opinions differ on who qualifies as the town's first white settler, but Jonathan Keyes of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, is generally considered the first to permanently occupy land here in 1774. In that same year, Nathaniel Segar and Jonathan Clark arrived from the Massachusetts town of Newton, and Joseph Twitchell, the most influential of the plantation's proprietors, had saw and grist mills built near what became Bethel Hill Village. Settlement was so slowed by the American Revolution that only ten families were in the settlement when Indians attacked in August 1781; traditionally considered New England's last Indian raid, this event resulted in three of Sudbury Canada's citizens being taken captive. Following the Revolution, settlement grew rapidly, and in 1796 the town was incorporated. At the suggestion of the Reverend Eliphaz Chapman, the new community took the name "Bethel," from the Book of Genesis, meaning "House of God."

From the beginning, agriculture was the principal occupation of a majority of Bethel's inhabitants, and the village of Middle Intervale, near the town's center, early assumed a social and political importance. By the 1830s however, Bethel Hill's proximity to the town's major source of water power assured its commercial and industrial domination. With the arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad in 1851, connecting Bethel to Portland and later Montreal, the wood products industry became (and remains) a major factor in the economic life of the community. In addition, the railroad's construction made it possible for summer visitors from Boston and New York to travel conveniently to Bethel to enjoy the town's extraordinary natural setting and to visit the nearby White Mountains. Indeed, hotel guests throughout the town frequently returned to their more-urban residences with landscapes of local scenes painted by some of the northeast's most prominent White Mountain artists. Besides the railroad, a river steamer provided transportation to the tremendous cataract at Rumford Falls.

A town whose social attitudes and intellectual inclinations have been shaped by an unusual number of outside influences, Bethel has had a strong traditional interest in education, as witnessed by the establishment of Gould Academy in 1836. Much of the community's "progressive" character has also been molded by the strong personalities of those who have lived here. First postmaster and congressman Dr. Moses Mason introduced architectural refinement to the town, while promoting its political and industrial development. Dr. Nathaniel T. True, Gould Academy principal, wrote and lectured on a multitude of historical subjects and founded the farmers' club movement in Maine. Renowned psychologist Dr. John G. Gehring established a clinic which treated the nervous disorders of Cambridge's elite. Philanthropist William Bingham II, long a summer resident, profoundly influenced the town's character through his financial generosity. And finally, Dr. William R. Chapman, founder of the Rubinstein Club and the Metropolitan Musical Society, and organizer and director of the Maine Music Festivals, greatly enhanced Bethel's reputation for culture.

A town that delighted in historical pageants and "antiquarian suppers" as early as the 1850s, Bethel has been more fortunate than many towns its size in retaining large portions of its architectural heritage. Though valuable structures have been removed or altered in the past, significant sites, typified by the Broad Street Historic District, continue to provide a "sense of place." Organized in 1966, the Bethel Historical Society remains the only full-time establishment of its kind in Oxford County; its collections, programs, and publications represent a major resource for the study of western Maine and the White Mountain region.

Bethel's 1980 population figure of 2,340 is deceptively similar to the 2,077 individuals recorded here in 1880, though many fluctuations have occurred during the intervening years. Bethel Hill and West Bethel villages remain much as they were arranged a century ago. New growth, brought about mainly by changes in seasonal tourism, promises to make the immediate future an interesting one.



B-1. AMOS POWERS HOUSE

ca. 1800 and later. Intervale Road

An interesting example of a house type utilized in many of the county's oldest towns, the Amos Powers House is a two-storied, foursquare, hip-roofed structure with a five-bayed facade and massive center chimney. The wooden building is the only extant example in Bethel of a house form rarely used for domestic architecture during the town's first half-century of existence (a time when a majority of surviving examples in western Maine were built).

A Revolutionary veteran who was born in Princeton, Massachusetts, Amos Powers came to Sudbury Canada in 1779 and built a small house nearer the Androscoggin River. After 1785, when a major flood destroyed several of the settlement's first homes, Powers moved to this upland site and constructed the present house, where he lived until his death in 1823. In the late nineteenth century, after years of ownership by various families, the house became the site of the village post office. The present centered doorway, which until a recent remodeling of the house had sidelights extending to the floor, is built in a vernacular Greek Revival style and was added several years after the original construction. Now minus its small-paned sash but retaining its basic form and window arrangement, the Powers House represents a significant link with Bethel's architectural past.

B-2. EAST BETHEL VILLAGE ("Bean's Corner")

Junction of Intervale and Locke Mills Roads

This unpretentious but historically important farming center from the early nineteenth century is one of several rural hamlets that became gathering spots for commercial and social activity during the first decades of Bethel's growth as a

community. Though time and fires have somewhat altered its earlier character, East Bethel Village still contains a handful of wood frame structures valuable in their depiction of a once-prosperous agricultural settlement.

Standing on the southwest corner of the road from Locke Mills Village is a two-and-a-half story late Federal style house now sheathed in an unsympathetic covering of asphalt shingles. Built in 1837, the house was constructed for Eliphaz C. Bean, a farmer and public official who was probably the village's most notable nineteenth century resident. Bean soon opened his house as a tavern and purchased a nearby store (no longer standing) from village resident Thaddeus P. Bartlett; because of this, the rural crossroads here has long been called "Bean's Corner." Eliphaz Bean was the second postmaster in this part of Bethel, served as town clerk, selectman, and school committee member, and in 1851 was elected to the Maine legislature.

Across Intervale Road is the Samuel Ayer House, a low-posted, broad-roofed Cape which may date as early as 1790. Both Samuel Ayer and his father, Joseph Ayer, of Standish, Maine, were early village blacksmiths here. The house no longer displays its large center chimney nor its multi-paned windows. East of the Ayer House is a ca. 1855 vernacular structure originally built as a residence. In 1925 one ell of this building became "Newton's Store," a general merchandise establishment that replaced another across the road destroyed by fire that same year. The last commercial operation of its type in East Bethel, the store closed its doors in the mid-1960s.

The Ball Bartlett Tavern (ca. 1825), a Federal style house with a symmetrical facade of five bays, stands further to the east. Though slightly modified over the years, the house retains many interesting original features, including interior moldings and doors. A center for social activity during much of the nineteenth century, the property contains one of the last English barns remaining in the town. Further east is a vernacular house built in 1906 on the site of Bethel's only documented example of a late eighteenth century "saltbox" type house. Built ca. 1797 by early settler Thaddeus Bartlett, the original house stood two-and-a-half stories high and had a massive center chimney. The house, one of the few of its type ever built in Oxford County, was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1906.

Across the road is the Alder River Grange Hall, a gable-to-the-street, two-and-a-half story vernacular wood structure built by local carpenter Fred B. Howe in 1905. Organized the year before, the grange remains active today, though its membership has dropped sharply in conjunction with the general decline in the number of active farms in the vicinity.

B-3. EAST BETHEL CHURCH

ca. 1830. Intervale Road

This plain but locally important vernacular Greek Revival church structure was constructed around 1830 as a meeting place where Baptist and Methodist religious services were held; during much of its history it has been known simply



as the "Union Church." The rather stark clapboarded exterior contrasts with an interior remarkable for its well-preserved nineteenth century character. Notable are the original pews and raised platform, the louvered shutters installed in 1887 to each side of the six-over-six paned windows, and the ornate Victorian kerosene chandelier hung from the ceiling center in 1901. Heat for winter services was provided by wood stoves which, with their extensive runs of stove-pipe along the ceiling, still survive. Restored in the 1970s, the building retained its wood-shingled roof until just a few years ago.

Indicating the structure's community importance when first erected, the East Bethel Church was utilized for the 1837 Bethel town meeting. Though no longer used for regular church services, the structure continues to provide a backdrop for many community functions. The church and adjacent cemetery stand as reminders of this once-prosperous agricultural center in Bethel's easternmost sector.

The "Locke Meetinghouse" at North Bethel (see B-19), also built by the Methodists and Baptists in 1831-32, probably bore a strong resemblance to the East Bethel Church. The North Bethel structure was razed in the 1860s and its materials used to construct a church at the village of Newry Corner.

B-4. "DEACON" ASA KIMBALL HOUSE

ca. 1798. Intervale Road

JOHN DECATUR HASTINGS FARMSTEAD

ca. 1790s, ca. 1865.

One of a handful of extant late eighteenth century Capes in Bethel, this low-posted, broad-roofed example carries important historic associations with one of the town's early settlers, Asa Kimball, a farmer and rope-maker who came to



Sudbury Canada from Bridgton in 1794. After living several years in a smaller Cape across the road (see below), Kimball erected this frame house, now minus its original barn and connecting ell. One of the founders of the Baptist Church in Bethel, Asa Kimball farmed the fertile Androscoggin intervale directly behind the house until shortly before his death in 1823. While the large center chimney and all interior woodwork were long ago removed from the house's interior, the clapboard-sheathed exterior has recently been stabilized, with future plans for a more complete restoration.

Standing on the opposite side of the road is the Hastings Farmstead, where seventh generation descendants of Asa Kimball currently operate one of the town's last remaining active farms. The main buildings probably date to the 1790s when "Deacon" Asa Kimball came here from Bridgton; the oldest section, a low-posted Cape now serving as an ell, may contain parts of an older structure known to have existed near this site. Asa Kimball's son, "Captain" Asa Kimball, was a veteran of the War of 1812 and lived here as a prosperous farmer and town officer. The farmstead passed to the Hastings family soon after 1849, when Emma Kimball married John Decatur Hastings, a farmer and town selectman. It was Hastings who built the present two-and-a-half story addition and large connecting barn during the 1860s. Indicating yet another era of family expansion is a Bungalow type dwelling built a short distance east in 1923.

B-5. JOSIAH BEAN HOUSE

ca. 1782. Intervale Road

This well-preserved example of an eighteenth century Cape was built by Josiah Bean, who came to Sudbury Canada from Standish, Maine, in the fall of 1781. Bean accompanied his father, Jonathan, and two brothers, Jonathan, Jr., and Daniel, to the infant settlement where they established families long-associated with the

social history of the town. An early "surveyor of ways" and a member of the town's first school committee (1798), Josiah Bean constructed his frame house in typical eighteenth century fashion, with a small hallway behind the center entrance, a large corner room to each side, and a long room at the rear which probably served as a kitchen. With its large center chimney intact and its exterior clapboarded surface painted a dark brown, the Bean House is a convincing and important survivor from the town's formative years.

West of the Bean House, nearer the river, is Bartlett Cemetery, the oldest in Bethel. Within its walls of roughly-laid stone are buried many of the town's earliest settlers, quite a few of which have no marker. The oldest inscription here is dated "1796"; nearby is the grave of Jonathan Bartlett (d. 1798) for whose family the graveyard is probably named. A plaque at the cemetery entrance notes this as the resting place of Eva M. Bean, founder of the Bethel Historical Society and author of the book *East Bethel Road*, a study of the eastern half of the town.

Beyond the cemetery, on a slight rise, is a much-remodeled Cape which may date to the early 1780s. Tradition states that one of Bethel's earliest settlers, Jonathan Keyes, of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, came to this site in 1774 and erected a house and two barns. Probably a log structure (the first "framed" house in Bethel, a miller's residence, was built west of Bethel Hill Village in 1779; see B-13), the house was sold to Samuel Ingalls, who moved here from Fryeburg in 1777. Ingall's wife, Elizabeth, is recorded as the first white woman to spend a winter in the settlement, and for this she was awarded a special one-hundred acre lot of land. Jonathan Keyes re-established his farmstead south of Rumford Corner Village as Rumford's first settler in 1777 (see R-13).

B-6. HUMPHREY BEAN FARMSTEAD ("Trask House")

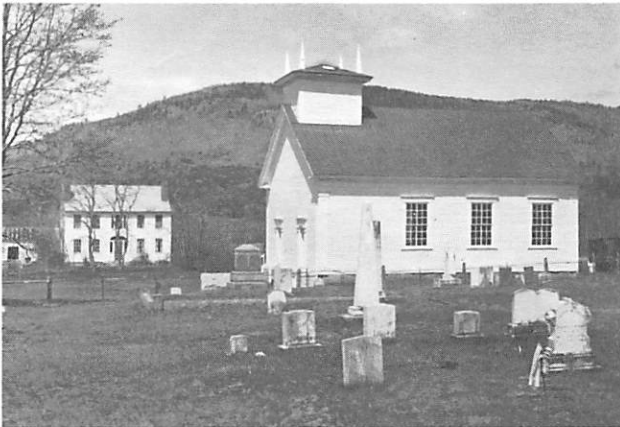
ca. 1835. Intervale Road

An important rural connected farmstead, this frame structure includes a high-posted, center-chimneyed Cape at one end and a weathered, clapboard-covered barn at the other. Built by Hanover carpenter Ezekiel Russell for Bethel farmer Humphrey Bean, the structure follows a pattern basic to numerous similar farmsteads throughout Oxford County. The most interesting feature is the facade of the main house, which displays five bays with small, half-sized "eyebrow" windows tucked under the eaves, and a vernacular interpretation of a Federal style fan doorway. On the interior, all of the partitions are constructed of three-inch planks, a most unusual feature. A larger detached barn stands just west of the assemblage.

Behind the Bean Farmstead and closer to the river is the site of one of two Revolutionary period fortifications erected during the fall of 1781 following a raid on the "western settlement" (that nearest Bethel Hill) by Indians. Constructed around the ca. 1779 house of Colonel John York, a Standish, Maine, veteran of the



Revolution who came to Sudbury Canada that year, the fort probably consisted of a wooden stockade with several framed buildings inside, used to shelter the nearby inhabitants who came to them at night. Today, no trace exists above ground of the York House or the defensive structure.



B-7. MIDDLE INTERVALE MEETINGHOUSE

1816, ca. 1825, ca. 1857. Intervale Road

DR. TIMOTHY CARTER HOUSE ("Brick End House")

1816

Currently undergoing restoration, the Meetinghouse at Middle Intervale (Bethel's oldest surviving church structure) is one of several "second period"

meetinghouses in Oxford County (see also L-12 and P-38) whose original lines are now concealed by later stylistic and structural changes. The village at Middle Intervale grew into a social and business center during the first decades of the nineteenth century; Bethel's first town meeting after incorporation was held here in 1796 at the home of General Amos Hastings. Despite the later presence of a school, several shops, numerous farmsteads, and a few stores clustered near the village Common, this centrally-located hamlet had no water power, and with the coming of the railroad through Bethel Hill Village (the location of the town's first saw and grist mills), the latter place soon became the hub of the community.

Originally a two-and-a-half story meetinghouse with a tower and tall spire on the south gabled end, the Middle Intervale Meetinghouse was constructed in 1816 by the local Methodists and Baptists with financial assistance from the town. Used for town meetings for many years, and referred to as the "Union Church" or "Center Meetinghouse," the structure may have been patterned after a Baptist meetinghouse (1803) at Paris Hill Village (see P-2). Around 1825, a major remodeling took place, at which time the upper portion of the tower was removed and the original double row of small-paned windows was replaced by the present oversized ones. In 1857, the Baptists assumed complete control of the building and carried out the Greek Revival stylistic alterations seen today. The pair of entrance doorways have heavy entablatures which match in scale the paneled corner pilasters and bold cornice moldings. The interior boasts an interesting combination of Federal and Greek Revival elements.

The finest Federal style house in Bethel, and one of three in the county with brick gable-end walls (see also O-24 and P-8), the Dr. Timothy Carter House was erected for Bethel's first-settled physician over a period of three years, beginning in 1816. The sophisticated five-bayed two-and-a-half story structure was supposedly patterned after the home of Carter's father-in-law at Sutton, Massachusetts; tradition also states that the bricks used in the construction came from Paris Hill, where similar materials went into "Old Brick," the Federal mansion of Captain Samuel Rawson (see P-2). Notable features of the Bethel house include the fine semi-elliptical fan doorway, the multi-paned tripart window above it, and the tall end-wall chimneys (originally taller, but lowered after high winds damaged them). Worthy of careful preservation in the future, the "Brick-End House" is a valuable architectural landmark in northern Oxford County.

Dr. Carter, who came to Bethel in 1799 and practiced medicine in the upper Androscoggin valley from Dixfield, Maine, to Shelburne, New Hampshire, also served as Bethel town clerk and treasurer. A promoter in the establishment of the town's first schools, he was for many years postmaster at Middle Intervale.

South of the Carter House is a vernacular house with a mansard roof, one of only two in Bethel. Built by Augustus M. Carter in the 1860s, the building stands at the edge of a broad Intervale framed by some of the county's highest mountains. Beyond stands the Israel Kimball House, a high-posted Cape built around 1830.

B-8. DAVID SANBORN FARMSTEAD

ca. 1825-30. Off Intervale Road

This massive connected structure is important as a relatively unchanged early nineteenth century farmstead; additionally, this location has significant historic connections with Bethel's eighteenth century origins. Located near a prominent bend in the Androscoggin River, the farmstead (best viewed from Route 2 south of its junction with the Sunday River Road) includes "Powow Point," a three-quarter acre site which tradition gives as a rendezvous place for local Indian hunters during the pre-1750 period. Around 1780, David Marshall of Dublin, New Hampshire, moved his family here and cleared a small farmstead. So alarmed were they by the Indian raid on the settlement in August of the next year that they abandoned the site, journeying southeast to what later became Hebron. The present buildings, which include a fine five-bayed, two-and-a-half storied house with center chimney, were constructed in the late 1820s by David Sanborn, whose family came to Bethel from Standish, Maine.

On the opposite side of Intervale Road, a short distance north, stood Bethel's Town House, built in 1841 and removed thirty years later. Previous to its construction, town meetings were held mostly in schoolhouses or in the Middle Intervale Meetinghouse. After 1871, meetings convened at "Pattee's Hall," a public gathering place at Bethel Hill Village.

**B-9. BENJAMIN RUSSELL HOUSE**

ca. 1786. Intervale Road

This small Cape, originally built with a large center chimney with fireplaces in three of its first floor rooms, was constructed by Benjamin Russell, Sr., who came from Fryeburg, Maine, to Bethel in the winter of 1779; Russell became the first

town clerk in 1796 and was, for several years, the only justice of the peace in the settlement. After his first house, located closer to the Androscoggin River, was destroyed in a flood in 1785, the present house was built on higher land. This flood, supposedly the largest ever experienced on the river, removed other early Bethel landmarks, most notably Jonathan Clark's "plank house" near the mouth of Mill Brook, site of the last Indian raid in New England (1781).

Benjamin Russell's grandson, Jonathan Abbott Russell, built a large ell onto the east wall of the older house in the 1850s; this later portion burned in the 1970s, but the Cape section fortunately survived. Among the interior elements which remain from the late eighteenth century are numerous doors and moldings, and walls of wide vertical board sheathing. The house is typical of the small, but heavily-timbered constructions that were Bethel's first framed buildings.

In its days as a productive farm, the Russell property contained numerous outbuildings, including an English barn which stood across the road. The present owners, seventh generation descendants of Benjamin Russell, are restoring some of the most valuable characteristics of the farmstead — the orchards, the family graveyard, and the once-open fields between the house and the river. The view west from the house towards the northern Presidential mountains is one of the finest in the town.



B-10. AYERS MASON HOUSE ("Sunset Farm")
1826. Intervale Road

Situated on a rise above the Androscoggin River, this handsome Federal style house is set against some of the most spectacular mountain scenery to be found in Oxford County. Built in 1826 by Ayers Mason, the son of an early Bethel settler and brother of Dr. Moses Mason of Bethel Hill Village, the house is significant for its

fine decorative detail, including an excellent example of a Federal doorway with semi-elliptical glass fan. Above the doorway is a delicate tripart window with pilastered moldings; this window type is quite common as seen in the county's "high style" domestic architecture of the period. The house's interior arrangement includes a massive center chimney, exhibited more often by structures of the late Colonial/early Federal period. Once part of an active farmstead long owned by the Mason family, the two-and-a-half story house stands near a massive, detached wood frame barn.

During the mid-nineteenth century, Ayers Mason was one of Bethel's largest owners of timberlands in the county. Engaged in lumbering in Bethel, Newry, Grafton, and the Umbagog Lake area, Mason earned a reputation as one of western Maine's most successful businessmen.

B-11. MAIN STREET

Off Routes 26 and 5

Although it was laid out in 1821, Main Street at Bethel Hill Village did not develop as the town's commercial heart until several decades later. The present architectural appearance of Bethel Hill as a whole greatly reflects the prosperity of an inland Maine community opened up to outside trade by the construction in 1851 of a railroad linking Portland with Montreal. An outgrowth of the town's first mills erected at the foot of nearby Mill Hill in 1774, Main Street presents a cohesive grouping of residential, commercial, civic, and religious structures that still describe the optimistic era during which Bethel Hill became northern Oxford County's economic center. Along with Broad and Church streets (see B-12 and B-13), Main Street exhibits some of the best examples of several important architectural styles in a setting that reflects a conscious effort to preserve the historic fabric of the town.



Cole Block

Near the southern end of the street and on its eastern side stands the Cole Block, a massive four-story wooden structure designed in a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival motifs by Lewiston architect George M. Coombs. Built in 1891 and named for its original owners/builders, Elmer and Frederick Cole of Bethel, the building has long been a center of commercial and social activity at the village. While the first story now houses the Bethel Town Office and the printing establishment of the *Bethel Citizen* (founded here in 1895 as the *Bethel News*), the space above is occupied by "Odeon Hall," a large and remarkably intact room once used for town meetings, Gould Academy graduations, and numerous other social events. Before the construction of a theater (now converted to housing) further down the street in 1940, the town's first silent films and later "talkies" were shown here. Though Odeon Hall is no longer used, the Cole Block itself remains a key landmark on upper Main Street. Among Coombs' other commissions in the county is the Oxford County Courthouse at South Paris (see P-20).

Between the Cole Block and Spring Street are two side-hall, gable-to-the-street houses of two-and-a-half stories. Detailed in heavy Greek Revival moldings, they probably date to the mid-1850s. On the northern corner of Main and Spring Streets is a vernacular Greek Revival store erected by Daniel A. Twitchell in 1859. Long known in this century as "Brown's Variety Store," the structure has had its first floor storefronts altered several times. Twitchell was postmaster at Bethel Hill from 1861 to 1863.

Beyond a much-remodeled frame structure that has held numerous Main Street businesses is a story-and-a-half house with a steeply-pitched gable roof encircled with Gothic Revival bargeboards with finials. Dating to around 1850, the house was once the residence of Leander T. Barker, undertaker, liquor agent, and Bethel town clerk. Below are three houses which exhibit varying Greek Revival characteristics. That immediately below is very similar to the example next to the Cole Block (see above), which has unfortunately suffered the replacement of its multi-paned, gable-end, first story windows with an unsympathetic plate glass type. The unaltered example was built in the mid-nineteenth century by Hiram Young who operated a store at the head (southern end) of Main Street. Next door is "Amestead," a fine two-and-a-half story house with a three-bayed facade, inset sidelighted doorway, and heavy cornice and corner moldings. Owned by the Ames family from 1908 to 1968, and built by a Twitchell in the 1850s, the house was slightly remodeled in 1974 to provide for commercial space on the first floor. To the north is a well-preserved story-and-a-half side-hall type house with decorative bargeboards and unusually-shaped attic window in the gable end. Dating to around 1870, the house may have been built by village businessman Samuel D. Philbrook, for whom the street below is named.

Three structures between Philbrook and Chapman streets are of architectural interest. The present Queen Anne style Methodist Church replaces an earlier church of 1860 which was almost totally destroyed by a cyclone in September 1891. Designed by architect Elmer Thomas of Auburn and completed early in 1893, the second church features shingle-covered exterior walls, a large stained-glass round-arch memorial window, and a square corner tower with open belfry



Methodist Church

and pyramidal roof. Similar in design to the Universalist Church at West Paris Village (see W-22), the Bethel structure was raised onto a basement story around 1915. The fine residence next door was constructed for Nelson Springer, owner of a nearby dowel mill, in 1906. Whereas "high-style" Queen Anne houses seen in Oxford County usually follow an asymmetrical plan, the Springer House is transitional to the early Colonial Revival style, in that its symmetrical facade gives the suggestion of classical balance. The first house in the town to be wired for electricity (which Bethel Hill received in 1909), the building has a one-story porch with turned posts, spindle-like balusters and wooden brackets, and ornamental cast-iron cresting atop the hip-roof. At the corner of Main and Chapman streets is another vernacular Greek Revival house with decorative wooden bargeboards on the gable-end eaves. Built in 1860, it is typical of modest mid-century housing seen in most parts of the county.

The Mt. Abram Lodge Odd Fellows Hall (1890), like the Cole Block above, exhibits certain Queen Anne style features, including large windows topped with panels of small panes of colored glass, and textured wall surfaces of patterned shingles. The clipped-gable roof was originally topped with large-scale wooden cresting, now removed. Set on a high brick foundation, the Odd Fellows Hall retains its first floor commercial space with large meeting room above.

At the corner of Main and Vernon streets below is a Cape built soon after the railroad's arrival. The earliest owner was James Dillaway, who operated a blacksmith shop in the section furthest north (moved here from the Grover Hill area of Bethel). The eaves of the house, which extend beyond the walls on all sides, may be an original, though unusual, feature.



Mt. Abram Lodge Odd Fellows Hall

One of the village's most interesting Queen Anne style residences, the Purington-Merrill House, stands a short distance north. Originally a story-and-a-half house, the building was raised, a new first floor inserted, and the characteristic late Victorian decorative work added in 1890. The extensive



Purington-Merrill House

stylistic "updating" was carried out under the ownership of Josiah U. Purington, who came to Bethel from Brunswick, Maine, in 1869. In partnership with several other Bethel businessmen, Purington established a highly successful general merchandise and hardware store at the foot of Main Street next to the tracks of the Grand Trunk. He later became a director of the Bethel Water Company, a trustee

of the Bethel Savings Bank and of Gould Academy, and from 1891 to 1898 served as town treasurer. The house as rebuilt now displays the characteristic spindle-work, varied exterior sheathing, and randomly placed window types, all of which express the freedom of the style. The building, whose late nineteenth century paint scheme provided for highly contrasting colors, was remodeled by master-carpenter J. Gardner Roberts of Hanover.

The Charles Mason House, on the corner below, combines Greek Revival and Italianate elements into a pleasing composition. The most notable features of the ca. 1855 house are the heavy corner pilasters and entablature, the first floor bay window, and the pair of round-arch windows framed together at the attic level. Charles Mason was a prosperous store owner at Bethel Hill; his house remained in Mason hands until the 1930s.

The Sudbury Inn, across Clark Street, is a rambling structure whose oldest section is the five-bayed portion furthest south. Dating from the mid-nineteenth century, this two-and-a-half story house was the residence of Josiah Brown, a village shoemaker. Around 1913, the larger vernacular Queen Anne styled portion was constructed from designs provided by the Portland architectural firm of Smith and Rumery and, in its guise as a hotel, was named the "Maple Inn." Rebuilt after a fire in the 1920s, the structure was renamed "Sudbury Inn" (after Bethel's proprietary name) in the 1940s. Beyond several vernacular houses and west of the railroad crossing stood Bethel's Victorian railroad station, built in 1865 and unfortunately razed in 1968.



Samuel D. Philbrook House

Nearly opposite the Sudbury Inn is the Samuel D. Philbrook House, the finest Italianate residence in Bethel and one of the most important in Oxford County. Connected to a two-story ell and large gable-roofed barn, the nearly square residence was completed by carpenter Edmund Merrill early in 1879 and

replaced an earlier structure destroyed by fire the previous year. The picturesque effect of the style, which shares many of the same decorative features of the county's few Second Empire or Mansard style houses, is achieved through the development of strongly three-dimensional architectural elements. Most notable here are the bay windows, bracketed door hood, and centered gable on the three-bayed, symmetrical facade. Above the projecting eaves with elaborated cornice is a distinctive square cupola displaying inverted scroll-like brackets at the lower corners, pairs of round-arch windows, and a tent roof with wooden finial. The landscaped grounds curbed in cut granite once sported an equally exuberant gazebo, which now stands in restored condition on the grounds of the Moses Mason House on Broad Street (see B-13). Born in nearby Gilead, Samuel D. Philbrook, whose brother, John, built a Queen Anne house further up the street, came to Bethel Hill in the 1860s and prospered as a local cattle dealer and businessman.

The cross-gabled Victorian house above, with semi-circular attic windows and a modillioned and bracketed cornice, was constructed in 1875 as the residence of Abernathy Grover and his second wife, Isabel A. Shehan, daughter of the village postmaster. A Bethel native, Grover returned to Oxford County following his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1843. After teaching a year at Gould Academy, he built mills and engaged in lumbering in the adjoining town of Albany. A representative to the state legislature, Grover was commissioned a major during the Civil War and, before moving west in the 1880s, involved himself in several Bethel Hill businesses.

Beyond several vernacular structures is Bethel's Civil War monument, erected in 1908 on the site of a wooden bandstand. Curbed in granite and surrounded by its original cast-iron fencing, the memorial holds an important corner near the center of Main Street.

Further south, on the site of the nineteenth century cabinet shop of Elijah Goddard, is the two-story brick Naimey Block, erected in 1922. The site of the Bethel Post Office since 1942, the unadorned rectangular structure was originally designed to house three commercial sites. Standing above a modern grocery store is the street's oldest structure, a Federal style five-bayed house built around 1820. Its original owner, Marshall Bonney, the village's first cabinetmaker, created the first sofa at Bethel Hill for postmaster and physician Moses Mason in 1821. Until 1836, the house (whose fenestration has been slightly altered) stood at the head of the street where Church Street joins from the north. In the latter year, Gilman Chapman moved the house down the hill to its present site and erected a store in its place (see below).

Just above Main Street's junction with Elm is the John Philbrook House (1895), the finest Queen Anne residence on the street. Built under the supervision of contractor Gilbert Tuell, the two-and-a-half story house with extensive ell and large barn follows the most common form for such houses, in that a hipped roof with lower cross gables is utilized, along with a prominent round corner tower. The building makes use of various architectural devices to avoid flat wall surfaces, namely the bay windows, first story porches with delicate wooden spindlework,

and the sheathing of clapboards and patterned shingles. The S-curved roof of the corner tower is a particularly interesting touch. This site originally held the fine Greek Revival house of village store owner Gilman Chapman. This high-style residence with a columned, flat-roofed, single-story portico across one end was moved to Elm Street in 1895 and later razed. The Philbrook House is currently undergoing a thorough restoration.



Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts House

The fine Greek Revival Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts House next door was constructed just previous to 1858 (where it appears on the county wall map of that date) by local builder Almon Godwin, to whom the Gilman Chapman House, mentioned above, and the Gideon A. Hastings House on Broad Street (see B-13) are also attributed. Like the Hastings House also, this side-hall-plan house is turned away from the street, so that the main facade with its boldly-executed columned porch and well-defined gable pediment makes its statement without being ostentatious. Long owned by a series of local physicians, the house retains its paneled corner pilasters and elaborate door and window moldings.

The Wiley Block above was built around 1856 and though remodeled several times, retains something of its nineteenth century Greek Revival character. Originally owned by Newton Swift of Norway and operated by him for a short time as a store, the two-and-a-half story structure acquired its present name when Goodwin R. Wiley established a drugstore here in 1861. A prominent Bethel citizen, Wiley also served as town clerk, Gould Academy trustee's secretary, and clerk of the Bethel Village Corporation. Well known as the site of Bosserman's Drug Store during much of this century, the Wiley Block now exhibits a much-modernized first story store front.

The junction of Main with Church and Broad streets became known as "Honest Corner" after the construction there of a store in 1836. Previously, the Federal

style house of Marshall Bonney (see above) stood here; it remains as one of the oldest village structures a short distance north. The present vernacular three-and-a-half story wooden store was erected in 1910 and replaced the earlier structure which was destroyed by fire in 1906. In the open space between this structure and the Wiley Block stood the Freeman Block, where Bethel's first newspaper, the *Bethel Courier*, was printed from 1858 to 1861.

B-12. CHURCH STREET

Route 5 Off Route 26

Named for the two mid-nineteenth century structures whose tall steeples tower over this corner of Bethel Hill Village, Church Street was laid out four rods wide in 1819 from the village Common to an earlier Congregational Church (1806) which once stood on the south bank of the Androscoggin River near the present Route 2 crossing. Besides the two religious structures, the street today contains an outstanding collection of houses in several important styles, as well as the facilities of the Gould Academy campus, itself a small village of surprisingly distinctive architecture set in a spectacular rural location. Along with the Broad Street Historic District (see B-13), of which it is physically an extension, Church Street conveys the strong traditional concern for education and aesthetics that has left Bethel Hill one of the least spoiled of Maine's inland villages.

Nearest the Common and on the western side of the street is a story-and-a-half frame house whose symmetrical three-bayed facade is the least common of the gable-to-the-street types in the county. Built around 1840 for the Reverend Charles Frost, minister of the local Congregational Church from 1822 to 1850, the building shows influences from the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles. The bracketed hood over the double-doored entry and the pointed-arch attic window are its most interesting features. The door hood once had a balustrade similar to that on the Park-Mason House further north. The Frost House was once the residence of Frank E. Hanscom, Gould Academy principal from 1897 to 1936.

The Phineas Stearns House next door, despite its vernacular Greek Revival appearance, is one of the street's oldest structures. Stearns erected the frame around 1820 and moved a smaller building onto the property where he established one of the first saddle and harness making businesses in the village. Owned by the Stearns family until the 1930s, the house, like many others nearby, once had a formal front yard enclosed by a distinctive wooden fence. The shed dormers, visible on many Church Street houses, were probably added at the turn-of-the-century.

A few yards north, at the corner of Church and Park Streets, is the former Universalist Church, a modest Greek Revival edifice constructed in 1853. After forty years of use, the church was extensively remodeled, at which time the present stained-glass windows, Skinner pipe organ, and large rear portion, with vestry and "ladies parlor," were added. The Universalist Society became inactive

around 1925, and the church remained unused until the 1950s, when another religious organization assumed ownership. The present pedimented portico dates to the early years of this century.

The Greek Revival house with inset doorway and bargeboard trim next door is similar in plan to the Phineas Stearns House. Erected by house carpenter John Twitchell in 1854 for his own residence, it retains a rear ell with attached stable, the latter now converted to commercial use.



Park-Mason House

The Park-Mason House to the north is a well-scaled Italianate structure whose three-bayed facade is distinguished by tall first floor windows, a double-doored entry with a bracketed hood and balustrade, and a pair of segmental-arched windows at the center of the second story. The wooden corner quoining and modillioned cornice are particularly sophisticated touches. Begun in 1867, the house was the nineteenth century residence of Pinkney Burnham, a carriage maker whose shop stood at the foot of nearby Mill Hill. In 1892, Ellery C. Park, prominent village lawyer, county attorney, and Gould Academy trustee, purchased the house and lived here until his death in 1949. Recently restored, the Park-Mason House is of major importance to Bethel's architectural heritage.

In the same year that Sudbury Canada was incorporated as the town of Bethel (1796), a society of Congregationalists, the "orthodox" religion of the time, was organized. The Reverend Daniel Gould, for whom the academy was named in 1843, came from Topsfield, Massachusetts, to serve as the parish's first settled minister in 1799. By 1806, the need for a permanent meeting place was answered with the construction of a church "nearly square, with a hipped roof" that stood until 1848 just west of the present Route 2 bridge over the Androscoggin. With the further development of water-powered industry at the Hill a half-mile away, and the accompanying growth in population, the desire for a better-sited and larger church was seen. Constructed in 1847 and dedicated early in 1848, the



"West Parish Congregational Church"

"West Parish Congregational Church" was undoubtedly *the* major village landmark at the time of its completion.

Faced in a striking arrangement of paneled pilasters on a surface of flush-boarding, the church conveys the forthright character and strong proportions of the Greek Revival style. The inset triangular panel in the gable-end pediment is mirrored by the door lintels on the wall below. As in the case of several other county churches, the Bethel structure was stylistically "updated," probably around 1870, at which time the Gothic Revival pointed-arch windows capped with drip moldings were applied. In the 1890s, an extension off the south wall was constructed using the same Gothic motifs. Named in honor of Reverend David Garland, pastor of the Second Congregational Church in the Mayville section of Bethel, the addition displays a porticoed entrance with pointed-arch transom and drip molding. In 1922, a long range of wooden horse stalls behind the church was removed. The present steeple, a duplicate of the original which was taken down in 1899, was built in 1937 under the supervision of Portland architect John Calvin Stevens, who also oversaw interior alterations.

The Gould Academy Headmaster's House to the north was originally constructed in 1930 as a brick Dutch Colonial with a steeply-pitched gambrel roof. The architects for this first design were the Boston firm of Coolidge and Carlson. In 1958-59, the firm of Barr and Barr, Inc. of New York was commissioned to redesign the structure to an appearance more in keeping with the adjacent academy buildings (and the Congregational Church). The two-and-a-half story residence now conveys a more classical character with its projecting center gable, semi-circular entry portico, and wide paneled corner pilasters supporting a heavy entablature.

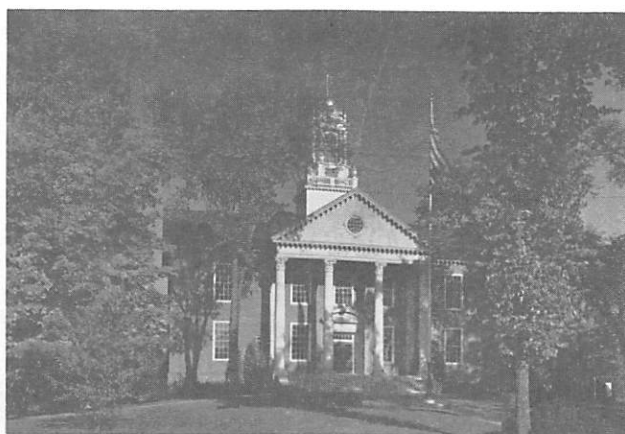


Marion True Gehring Students' Home

A massive brick building of some pretension, the Marion True Gehring Students' Home (now called "Gehring Hall") stands next door. Constructed in 1924-25 in a modified Georgian Revival style, it was designed by the firm of Coolidge and Carlson of Boston, and was financed, as were most of the existing academy buildings, by wealthy Cleveland native and Bethel summer resident, William Bingham II. Named in honor of the wife of Dr. John George Gehring, a pioneer psycho-therapist who established a clinic in Bethel for the treatment of nervous disorders, the structure consists of a rectangular gable-roofed main block of three-and-a-half stories, with pedimented wings projecting from the east facade wall. On the first floor, between the wings, is an arcaded wall of multi-paned round-arch windows; the entrances to each side of the facade have porticoes supported by Tuscan columns. Rising above the heavily-modillioned cornices are tall end chimneys and a clock tower with decorative swags and urns. Grand in scale, the building is one of the finest Neoclassical educational structures in the state. The Farnsworth Field House below, with its unique pyramidal roof crowned in glass, was designed by the firm of Barr and Barr, Inc. and completed in 1941.

On the opposite side of the street are several campus structures of architectural merit. The small, shingle-covered Colonial Revival house with clipped-gable ends and entrance portico was constructed in 1924; it and several other nearby houses have long been used as Gould Academy staff housing. Above and to the south is Holden Hall, a Colonial Revival dormitory in brick erected in 1938. A few yards away is Bingham Hall (1963) and the earlier Bingham Gymnasium (1921-22), now concealed behind a newly constructed facade. Like the Headmaster's House, Bingham Hall exhibits architectural features derived from classical models.

On a rise to the south is Hanscom Hall, the administrative center of the academy. Neoclassical in character and commanding in size, the symmetrical brick structure was designed by the architectural firm of Coolidge and Carlson and completed in the spring of 1934.



Hanscom Hall

Bethel's first secondary school was established in the fall of 1835 and held classes in a wing of the Bethel House hotel, located approximately where the Rowe Store (see B-13) on the village Common now stands. So successful was this endeavor that in January of the next year "Bethel Academy" was incorporated, and a two-and-a-half story Greek Revival academy building was erected where Hanscom Hall (named for a longstanding principal) now stands. This structure was replaced by an even larger Victorian building in 1881, which itself was razed upon completion of the present campus headquarters. An outstanding example of educational architecture, with many of the same decorative details displayed by Gehring Hall across the street, Hanscom Hall has a most intriguing feature on its main facade — several of the multi-paned windows, in a trompe l'oeil effect, balance the composition, but otherwise serve no functional purpose. With the formation of a school "district" of several area towns, and the construction of a new high school, Gould Academy became an independent school in 1968.

Beyond the brick Walters Infirmary, built in 1955, is the Bean-Hamlin House, now used for academy faculty housing. A portion of the rear wing contains the ca. 1819 house of John Oliver, a village hatter who erected the structure on the site of the Bethel Library on nearby Broad Street (see B-13). Moved to Church Street before 1830 (at a time when it was one of *only* three buildings on the present street's length), the house was enlarged to its present proportions around 1840 by Isaac B. Littlehale. Typical Greek Revival characteristics in evidence on its exterior are the paneled corner pilasters, wide entablature, pedimented gable-ends, and inset doorway with full-length sidelights and pedimented wooden lintel.

South of the Moore House, built in the 1840s as a vernacular Greek Revival residence, is the Benjamin Freeman House, built in 1859 from designs by Bethel architect Thomas Holt. An early commission for Holt, who also provided plans for such county structures as the Paris Hill Universalist Church and Bethel's



Bean-Hamlin House

Androscoggin River Covered Bridge (both no longer standing), the Freeman House was described as being "in the Italianate style," though its rather plain and unelaborated exterior owes more to earlier Greek Revival designs. Its two most notable features, the round-arch windows and denticulated cornice, only hint at later, more full-scale, versions of the style. A better and more articulated Holt design extant in the county is the Dr. Artemas L. Hersey House at Oxford (see O-32).

The fine story-and-a-half Greek Revival House next door was built around 1840 and has a well-crafted entrance doorway and fluted wooden columns supporting its full-width porch. Constructed for one of Bethel Hill's most prominent nineteenth century physicians, Dr. Almon Twitchell, the house remained in the hands of his descendants until only recently. Dr. William B. Lapham, author of the 1891 *History of Bethel*, as well as similar works on the county towns of Paris, Woodstock, Norway, and Rumford, received his medical training here. Next to the Twitchell House is a two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house with attached ell and barn. Built about 1865, the structure is very similar to several others of its period scattered throughout the village. On the lot now occupied by a vernacular house next door stood Bethel Hill's first schoolhouse, a ca. 1798 structure moved here in 1801 from near the Androscoggin River.

B-13. BROAD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Route 5 at Bethel Hill Common (NR)

The only nationally recognized historic district in Oxford County to exhibit virtually all of the major nineteenth century architectural styles, this important assemblage of twenty-seven buildings ranks in importance with the historic

villages of Waterford Flat (see W-5) and Paris Hill (see P-2) in depicting a well-preserved inland Maine village of the last century. Unlike the Paris and Waterford sites, which are predominantly Federal in character, the Broad Street District, including the Bethel Common area, contains a large number of structures built during the second half of the nineteenth century, when rail transportation brought economic prosperity to Bethel Hill Village.

Broad Street began as part of the route from Bethel Hill to Norway during the earliest decades of the town's settlement. In 1807, the street was formally accepted as a town way and considerably widened to allow for the training of militia, hence the origin of its name. The village Common, the gift of Eleazer Twitchell, who ran the nearby mills and is generally considered the first settler of Bethel Hill, was not cleared of its stumps and rocks until the late 1820s. Once enclosed by a wooden fence, and later by tall elms which succumbed to Dutch elm disease in the 1960s, the Common has been the scene of countless town celebrations, including the centennial commemoration of the 1781 Indian raid on Bethel, then Sudbury Canada. The district was entered on the National Register in 1978.



Henry Hastings House, Chapman Block

Holding the northeast corner of the Common, where Broad Street intersects Main and Church streets, are two mid-nineteenth century structures whose joined shape describes this important commercial site. The two-and-a-half story wooden portion with Greek Revival pedimented window heads and paneled corner pilasters was erected as a store and law office around 1860. Utilized by village lawyers Henry Hastings, Sr. and Jr. during much of this century, the well-preserved structure is now a private residence. Attached to its south wall and dating to 1859 is a three-story brick block erected by Robert A. Chapman, a Bethel businessman and large landholder at the village. Virtually unchanged on its exterior, the building has been used for a variety of purposes, including law office,

saddle shop, dental office, fruit company, drug store, shoe store, and millinery shop. One of the finest brick commercial structures of its period in western Maine, the local landmark has a facade displaying granite-capped doors and windows, decorative inset panels, and a high false front with denticulated cornice and large scroll-like wooden brackets. The latter element is a precursor to the then-developing Italianate style in Oxford County.

Next door, the Bethel Library is a modest but well-scaled structure whose rear wing was originally located on lower Main Street where it served as the law office of Enoch Foster, a justice of the supreme judicial court of Maine. Moved to Broad Street in 1881, the story-and-a-half gabled building was first occupied by the Library Association (founded 1879) in 1899. In 1937, the original structure was moved back and the present three-bayed Colonial Revival portion designed by Portland architect John Calvin Stevens erected in its place. The recent addition of a wooden fire escape on the north wall somewhat marring the symmetrical appearance of the building.



(l to r) Chapman, Mason, J. Hastings, G. Hastings houses

The large five-bayed clapboarded house next door displays decorative elements of Italianate character, though the building follows the traditional two-and-a-half story form of earlier houses nearby. Built by Robert A. Chapman around 1860, the large-scale residence stands on the site of the ca. 1821 Federal style house of O'Neil Robinson, a Chatham, New Hampshire, native who, after moving to Maine, served as a state senator and Oxford County sheriff from 1842-1850. Robinson, whose Broad Street house burned in the 1850s, later settled in Waterford. The present house was the residence of Judge Enoch Foster (see above) in 1870 when the bracketed cornice, hooded window crowns, and elaborate entry porch in the Italianate style were added. Purchased by the Bethel Inn in 1923, the structure, now called "The Elms," but known locally as the "Straw House" after its early twentieth century owners, has had its ell remodeled and original barn removed.

The Dr. Moses Mason House (1813), the oldest building in the Historic District, is significant as a fine Federal style house and as the home of one of Bethel's most prominent nineteenth century citizens. Restored by the William Bingham II Trust for Charity and presented to the Bethel Historical Society (founded 1966) in 1974, the house's most notable feature is the set of murals in the front hallway attributed to the itinerant artist Rufus Porter and painted ca. 1835. The fourth structure built on the Common and the first house at Bethel Hill to be painted white, the Mason House has a handsome Federal fan doorway with rope molding and sidelights. When he added the dark exterior shutters some years later, Dr. Mason's neighbors considered him very "aristocratic."

Born in Dublin, New Hampshire, in 1789, Dr. Moses Mason served in a variety of roles which eventually earned him a position as partriarch of the community. As physician, carpenter, saw mill owner, large land holder (the town of Mason, southwest of Bethel, was named for him in 1843), selectman, justice of the peace, Bethel's first postmaster, county commissioner, member of the governor's council, and United States congressman (1833-37), Mason became one of Broad Street's most respected residents. While his home is now open to the public as a period house museum, the large attached barn contains a meeting space and regional archives with major collections related to Oxford County and the White Mountains. The Victorian gazebo to the left rear of the house was moved from the Samuel D. Philbrook property on Main Street (see B-11) in 1980 and completely restored.

Directly behind the Mason House, where Spring Street joins Mason from the north, are the Bethel Inn Garages, two steeply-roofed story-and-a-half structures designed by the firm of Coolidge and Carlson and built by William Bingham II in 1930. Used by the Bethel Inn for housing guests' vehicles (and their chauffeurs) until the 1960s, the cement block structures are crowned at the cross-gables with unique multi-sided ventilators with tall spires. Only slightly altered in recent years, the garages are quite similar in form to Chase Hall at Bates College (Lewiston), also designed by Coolidge and Carlson.

Across Mason Street (laid out in 1890) is the ca. 1822 Federal style residence of John Hastings, one of the first blacksmiths in the village. Owned today by a fourth generation descendant of the original occupant, the spaciouly proportioned two-and-a-half story house reflects architectural "updating" evidenced by later stylistic alterations. As first constructed, the house had a plain clapboarded exterior pierced by windows with smaller paned sash than at present; the fine fan doorway and tripart window above survive from this period. At mid-century, when the village experienced a building boom thanks to the railroad's coming, the heavy Greek Revival corner and cornice moldings were probably added. Around 1880, under the ownership of Daniel Straw Hastings, a civil engineer who participated in the construction of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad through the southwestern part of Oxford County, the house was raised upon a high granite foundation and the rear ell remodeled with Victorian embellishments. Just after the turn-of-the-century, the present Colonial Revival portico was added to the facade, as was the granite curbing along Broad Street. The house's

interior retains much of its Federal period woodwork, while the furnishings and wallpapers date mostly from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Similar in form and external appearance to the Tibbetts House on Main Street (see B-11) is the Gideon A. Hastings House next door. Attributed to the building skills of local carpenter Almon Godwin, this well-scaled Greek Revival house with one-story portico was built in 1848 by John Hastings for his son Gideon, a major in the 12th Maine Regiment during the Civil War. The north gabled facade is particularly noteworthy for its Doric columns, carved doorway (similar to that on the Almon Twitchell House on Church Street; see B-12), recessed wood panels, and flush-boarding. In addition to his distinguished Civil War career, Gideon Hastings served as town clerk, selectman, county commissioner, and representative to the state legislature. In 1892, a post office in the Evans Notch area of Batchelder's Grant (west of Bethel and south of Gilead) was named in his honor.

In 1859, the substantial Greek Revival residence to the south was constructed for David Hammons, United States congressman from 1847-49. Born in Cornish, Maine, and trained in law under David Gould of Alfred, Hammons moved to Bethel after his Washington years and purchased a "most desirable" lot on Broad Street's eastern side. The house displays the heavy exterior moldings of the style, and, like the Gideon Hastings House, is of side-hall plan with its main facade at a right angle to the street; the west-facing doorway on the main block dates to ca. 1925-30. The house was later owned by William J. Upson, a wealthy partner with William Bingham II in the Bethel Inn Company, which rebuilt a hotel on the Common after a disastrous fire (see below). Upson converted the barn to a theater and plays were presented here by patients of the Gehring Clinic, at the end of the street.

The small Cape with Greek Revival exterior trim beyond the Hammons House was likely built by carpenter John Holt in the 1840s. With its pair of small, gabled dormers added in recent years, the modest residence gives some indication of how earlier house forms were embellished with later architectural decorative details. Perhaps the finest "temple-style" Greek Revival house in Bethel stands to the south. Constructed around 1850, the structure has a three-bayed facade framed in paneled pilasters and crowned by a well-defined gable pediment displaying a wide frieze band and triangular wooden louver. Importantly, the house retains its original fenestration, including entablatured multi-paned windows on the street side.

The Cape next door, now used as the Congregational Parsonage, was constructed around 1850 and has small Corinthian columns along its facade porch. The larger Carver-Ames House next door, built for village merchant Edwin C. Rowe in the 1850s, exhibits many of the same decorative features as the Greek Revival residence two houses back. The front porch with its bracketed posts and flat, jigsaw-cut trim, and large bay window with elaborated cornice on the south wall, are later nineteenth century embellishments. The Gilbert Tuell House (ca. 1860) on the corner of Broad Street and Paradise Road is a vernacular structure that has seen numerous changes to its exterior. As a boarding house in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the building served a number of notable guests, including Jane Addams of Hull House fame.



Gehring Clinic

Certainly the District's most imposing house, if not its largest, is the Gehring Clinic, a rambling structure that displays a mixture of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. Constructed in 1896 from the designs of architect Frederick A. Thompson, the delightfully eclectic structure stands on the site of the Bethel residence of Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True, longtime Gould Academy principal, author of the town's first history, and founder of the farmers' club movement in Maine. Under True's guidance, the Bethel Centennial Celebration of 1874 was held on the spacious grounds; though the earlier house was destroyed by fire in 1896, the maples lining the approach to the present house were planted over a century ago by his Gould Academy students.

In 1888, Dr. John George Gehring and his wife Marion True, daughter of Dr. True, came to Bethel from Cleveland, Ohio, where Gehring had a career as a practicing surgeon cut short by a nervous disorder. While in Bethel Dr. Gehring learned of the work of pioneer psychologist Dr. Frederick Gerrish of Portland, and after studying there and in Europe, returned to Bethel where he began using these new methods on his patients, many of whom stayed at the "mansion" at the end of Broad Street. Because many of these visitors to Bethel were from the Cambridge, Massachusetts, intelligentsia, Broad Street was once referred to as "the resting place of Harvard University." The nationally-famous clinic remained in operation until around 1925. This impressive home, with its irregular plan and classical details, is now the National Training Laboratory Conference Center, headquarters of a group specializing in human dynamics, founded in Bethel in 1947.

The Wright Cottage, the former summer home of philanthropist William Bingham II, was erected around 1906 as Broad Street's only Shingle style residence. Owned for many years by William Fuller, a patient of Dr. Gehring, the gambrel-roofed residence was purchased by Bingham in 1922, at which time many of the Colonial Revival embellishments were added by the Boston architectural firm of Coolidge and Carlson. The darkly shingled building, with its

fan doorway and balustraded portico, remained in Bingham's hands until his death in 1955.

The three-bayed Federal period house to the north displays an unusual but apparently original side-hall plan. Built around 1822, the gable-roofed structure was the home of Bethel's first lawyer, William Frye, grandson of Fryeburg's namesake and founder, Joseph Frye. William Frye served in many town roles, including that of academy trustee, selectman, and town clerk; on a broader level, he was a county attorney, representative to the state legislature, and state senator. Old photographs indicate that the Frye House once had windows with twelve-over-twelve paned sash.



Addison E. Herrick House

Beyond the somewhat remodeled Greek Revival Richard A. Frye House, the residence of a successful Bethel lawyer whose father lived next door, is the Judge Addison E. Herrick House, a remarkably intact example of the Queen Anne style. Constructed in 1885, the house has the typical asymmetrical form and textured wall surfaces of the style; the steeply-pitched hip roof is crowned by a flat deck with balustrade. A one-time law partner of Enoch Foster and a county judge of probate for twenty-one years (see above), Herrick also served as treasurer of the Bethel Savings Bank and as a representative to the Maine legislature.

To the north is the eclectic Francis Tuell House (1883) which exhibits characteristics of the Gothic, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Stick styles, among others. Born in West Sumner, Tuell studied dentistry in Norway and established his practice at Bethel Hill in the early 1880s. The residence remains in the hands of his descendants today.

One of two mansard-roofed buildings in Bethel (see also B-7), the Edmund Merrill House (ca. 1874), now known as "The Maples" of Bethel Inn, was the first Broad Street residence to fully represent the new trends in Victorian architecture. As originally designed, the three-bayed structure had a double-doored entry with



Edmund Merrill House

bracketed hood, a heavily-elaborated cornice, and a two-stage centrally-positioned tower capped in a convex mansard roof and ornamental roof cresting. A decorative wooden fence, matching the whimsical character of the house, encircled the property. A major remodeling around 1937 eliminated much of the Victorian quality and replaced it with elements more in keeping with the Colonial Revival Bethel Inn structures to the north. The most notable changes were the replacement of the hooded entry with a heavier, pedimented type, the addition of wooden quoining to the corners and projecting center bay, and the unfortunate removal of the fanciful tower. The first story bay windows remain from the earlier period.

Hidden by a screen of trees next door is the former Broad Street Schoolhouse, completed in a Greek Revival trim in 1866. The two-and-a-half story clapboarded building has heavy corner pilasters embracing a wide entablature; the north wall, with its pedimented windows and pilastered doorway, was rebuilt early in this century when the structure became part of the Bethel Inn. Used as a school until 1894, when a large brick schoolhouse with Romanesque features (no longer standing) was erected near Gould Academy's Hanscom Hall, the building is now called "The Pines." The structure to the rear ("The Oaks"), originally a massive wood frame barn, was rebuilt around 1929 in a Colonial Revival motif and added to the Inn's guest facilities.

Designed by the Boston firm of Coolidge and Carlson and completed in 1913, the Bethel Inn was constructed by a corporation which included William Bingham II, William J. Upson, and Dr. John G. Gehring among its members. Previous to the construction of the present Colonial Revival L-shaped structure, several other hotels stood on this site, including the "Prospect Hotel," a massive wooden building which extended to Broad Street and was extensively damaged by fire in 1911. As its replacement, the Bethel Inn was designed to provide housing for Dr. Gehring's patients, as well as other guests. Though most of the



Bethel Inn

stylistic elements on the hip-roofed exterior and spacious interior derive from Colonial models, such features as the open eaves with exposed rafters point to other influences. In the first floor lobby, a large Tiffany Company plaque dedicated to Dr. Gehring remains from the Inn's opening. The Dr. John Grover House ("The Willows"), a fine Greek Revival residence with tall first story windows, dates from around 1855 and stands a short distance below.

North of the Inn, an eighteenth century road descends from the Common to Mill Brook, where the town's first mills (1774) and first framed house (1779) were constructed. A mile to the south, along Route 5, is Oxford County's most important example of a "garden cemetery." Loosely based on ideas employed at Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery and Cambridge's Mount Auburn, Woodland Cemetery was laid out in the second quarter of the nineteenth century under the direction of Dr. Moses Mason and several others, in the spirit of civic improvement and community pride. With its landscaped knolls, fenced enclosures, and Gothic Revival tomb, this small but impressive cemetery once provided a backdrop for annual orations, picnics, and academy gatherings. The names of many of the town's most prominent nineteenth and early twentieth century residents are inscribed in stone here.

Facing the Common north of Mill Hill is the former Rowe Store, recently converted into condominiums. Historic as the site of Bethel's first hotel ("Bethel House"; 1833-65), where in 1835 the roots of Gould Academy were laid, this corner lot was chosen in 1884 for the two-story Victorian commercial structure which now occupies it. Originally designed without the attached porch with decorative spindlework, the hip-roofed building once housed "Ideal Hall," where social gatherings, academy graduations, and town meetings were held before the construction of Main Street's Cole Block (see B-11). While a recent remodeling preserved the building's general form, it unfortunately harmed its stylistic



Rowe Store

integrity by altering the size and type of fenestration, and by changing the exterior paint scheme to one of more subdued character.



Albert Stiles House

Beyond the Bethel Fire Station (1965) are three houses facing the northern edge of the village Common. That furthest west (ca. 1906) is a vernacular structure used as a Congregational Parsonage until 1960. It has an asymmetrical plan and simple clapboard exterior. Next door is the Albert Stiles House, one of the county's best examples of vernacular Gothic Revival domestic architecture. Built around 1852, this symmetrically-arranged "cottage" with steeply-pitched roof and centered gable was the first "balloon frame" house on the Common, a

fact that caused no little concern to older village residents when it was constructed. More accurately termed "Carpenter Gothic," the Stiles House has ornamental bargeboards at the eaves, a balustraded portico with wooden scrollwork trim, and wall sheathing scored to imitate stone. The O. H. Mason House on Vernon Street (off Main Street) is another local example of a modest residence built in a Gothic Revival motif.

Portions of the Chapman House next door may date as early as 1832; its present exterior appearance reflects transitional Federal/Greek Revival characteristics. The location of a store operated by village merchant Ira Crocker Kimball during the mid-nineteenth century, the house once displayed a Federal doorway with semi-elliptical glass fan and sidelights on its five-bayed south facade. In the 1920s, the house became the third and final Bethel residence of Dr. William Rogers Chapman (see also B-15 and B-17), an internationally-known musician and conductor who brought cultural sophistication to this western Oxford County town. Though Chapman passed from the scene in 1935, his impressive Bethel home still evokes an architectural presence at this important village site.



B-14. HARRINGTON GRAIN AND FEED STORE

ca. 1890. Summer Street

Originally built on Cross Street, a short distance north, and moved here in 1932, this architecturally unassuming frame structure was long associated with agricultural productivity in Bethel, a town that became a major exporter of goods in the county with the construction of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad in 1851. First as part of a local corn-canning establishment, and then as a grain and feed store, the building played an important role in the commercial life of Bethel Hill Village. Little changed over the years, the gable-roofed building has walls of board-and-batten sheathing pierced by windows in a random arrangement.

Commonplace a few decades ago, such agriculturally-linked county structures are becoming increasingly rare.

A building similar to the Harrington Store which also retains its nineteenth century character stands fronting the railroad tracks off Cross Street. Built as part of the Bethel Chair Factory around 1885, the two-and-a-half story wooden structure retains its original multi-paned windows and clapboard wall covering. Like the Harrington Store, this historically important building is now used only for storage.

B-15. MASON FARMSTEAD ("Norseman Inn")

ca. 1800, 1882, 1894 and later. Junction of Route 2 and Northwest Bethel Road

One of Bethel's most historic structures, this substantial, early nineteenth century farmstead, with major additions from the time when it was remodeled into a boarding house and hotel, stands in what was once known as the "Twitchell Neighborhood" and later as "Mayville," after the profusion of mayflowers that grew there. The long-occupied site was originally cleared by Eleazer Twitchell, who came to Sudbury Canada in 1779 to manage his father's extensive acreage and water-powered saw and grist mills, erected five years previous. In 1799, Moses Mason, a Revolutionary veteran and father of Dr. Moses Mason (see B-13), came from Dublin, New Hampshire, to the growing frontier outpost and erected the oldest portion of the present structure. The two-and-a-half story, five-bayed Federal period house remained in the Mason family until 1894. During their ownership, the Masons donated land for the Riverside Cemetery, located a short distance to the west. Buried here are some of Bethel's most prominent early settlers, including the Reverend Eliphaz Chapman, who suggested the name "Bethel" when the town was incorporated in 1796; his hip-roofed "mansion," destroyed by fire in 1937, stood nearby. The Mason family also gave the land where a church was built north of the present large barn in 1848-49 (this, the "Second Congregational Church," was razed early in this century). In 1882, Moses A. Mason, grandson of the house's builder, constructed the detached barn with octagonal cupola.

In 1894, the Mason Farmstead was purchased and greatly enlarged by Charles Ryerson, an Upton, Maine, hotel operator. During Ryerson's ownership, the ell was raised a full story and a stable was connected to its north wall, creating the extended east wall which fronts the highway to Newry and Rumford. The building was given the name "Riverside Hotel" and prospered in its well-sited location adjacent to the grounds of the Bethel Fair Association and the much-crossed Androscoggin River Covered Bridge (1869-1927), one of the longest ever constructed in the county.

Around 1912, the property came into the hands of Dr. William Rogers Chapman, prominent conductor and founder of New York's Reubenstein Club and the Maine Music Festivals (see also B-13 and B-17). Here, at his "Riverside Farm," Chapman entertained some of the world's most famous music personali-

ties; he also raised thoroughbred racing horses which were housed in a massive barn (1915), which still stands on the former fairgrounds site west of the house. For many years the Maine Festival Chorus' annual summer picnic took place here and two interior fireplaces constructed of stones brought from around the country and the world by Chapman's singers still exist. Dr. Chapman sold the property in 1918 and after a brief stay in nearby Shelburne, New Hampshire, moved to the Common area of Bethel Hill. Under the name "Bethaven," the building again resumed its former role. After a series of other occupants and years as a private residence, the venerable structure has again returned to its hotel status as the "Norseman Inn."



B-16. SAMUEL B. TWITCHELL HOUSE

ca. 1813, 1881. Route 2

This large wooden structure is an excellent example of architectural progression as reflected in changes wrought by successive generations of the same family. The earliest part of the building is a five-bayed Federal style house now serving as the rear ell; as originally built by Bethel farmer Thaddeus Twitchell around 1813, the two-and-a-half story building faced east on the present roadway. In 1881, Thaddeus Twitchell's son, Samuel Barker Twitchell, turned the old house forty-five degrees and moved it back from the road. In its place he constructed the larger, asymmetrically-arranged Victorian house which displays many characteristics of the Queen Anne style. Built mainly "to accommodate his summer boarders," Twitchell's newer residence was complemented by a massive cross-gabled barn, which remains in unaltered condition at the rear of the property. While the late nineteenth century portion remains structurally unchanged, its present surface colors conceal a design notable for its architectural variety. The

house continues today in its role as a hostelry, under the ubiquitous title of "bed and breakfast."



B-17. CHAPMAN-FADNER HOUSE

ca. 1810, ca. 1855 and later. Route 2

This large, gable-roofed Federal style house with extensive rear ells and detached barn is important as an early Bethel residence later embellished with mid-nineteenth century stylistic devices. The structure also has significance as the first Bethel home of Dr. William Rogers Chapman, founder and conductor of the Rubinstein Club and Metropolitan Musical Society in New York City, and of the Maine Music Festivals, which introduced many of the world's greatest musical artists and orchestras to the state during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Built in the early nineteenth century (parts of the structure may predate this time), the house has a five-bayed facade, massive center chimney, and a clapboard exterior. Around 1855, Greek Revival detailing — the wide eaves entablature, the gable-end raking cornice, the paneled corner pilasters, and the projecting entry porch — were applied. Later alterations included the pair of bay windows on the south wall and interior changes to the rear ell, creating a large "music room" in which Dr. Chapman entertained the first of many celebrities who summered in Bethel.

Across the street is the Ladd Farm, a substantial connected structure built for Warren Emery in 1910; painted in authentic shades of contrasting colors, the well-preserved building reflects a rural interpretation of Queen Anne design motifs. From 1928 to 1972 the multi-gabled structure was known as "Ladd's Wayside Inn" and played an important role in Bethel's age-old tradition as a popular seasonal retreat. The broad expanse of rich intervalle land on all sides of

the farmstead was originally used for harvesting hay but since 1928 has been utilized for potato production.



B-18. TWITCHELL-CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE

ca. 1835, ca. 1893. Route 2

One of a handful of fine Queen Anne residences in Bethel, the Twitchell-Chamberlain House consists of a two-and-a-half story main block with an extensive story-and-a-half gable-roofed ell, part of an earlier house extensively damaged by fire in the late 1880s. The land for this well-sited house was cleared as early as 1784 when Peter Twitchell, son of influential town proprietor Joseph Twitchell of Sherbourne, Massachusetts, established a farmstead here. Peter Twitchell's nephew, Alphin Twitchell, a farmer, cattle dealer, town selectman, and trustee of Gould Academy, erected a high-posted Greek Revival Cape and the present ell around 1835, the year he married his first cousin, Roxanna Twitchell. In the 1880s, fire damaged the Cape section of the house, and it was removed and replaced by the tall Queen Anne portion by Edward C. Chamberlain, a son-in-law of Alphin Twitchell. For many years, the house was operated as an inn for summer boarders.

A later occupant of the Twitchell-Chamberlain House, Henry T. Finck purchased the property after spending fifteen summers at the Locke Mountain House at North Bethel (see B-19). Finck was, at one time, the well-respected music critic for the *New York Post*. As in the Samuel B. Twitchell House further south on Route 2, the late nineteenth century decorative characteristics of the Twitchell-Chamberlain House are concealed by a "colonialized" paint scheme.

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B-19. "LOCKE MOUNTAIN HOUSE"

ca. 1850. Sunday River Road off Route 2

An important late nineteenth and early twentieth century hostelry in the North Bethel section of the town, this large-scale farmhouse of vernacular Greek Revival character was erected around 1850 by Charles Russell Locke, son of Samuel Barron Locke, Sr., an early millwright in the Bethel area for whom Locke Mills Village in the town of Greenwood is named. The connected farmstead erected by the younger Locke may incorporate portions of his father's early nineteenth century house; the ca. 1850 main block features a five-bayed facade with a sidelighted doorway and flat corner moldings without capitals. The weathered structure, now in need of stabilization, stands at the base of Locke Mountain, a distinctive angular prominence at the entrance to the Sunday River valley.

Long known as "Maple Grove Farm," the Locke House was once the summer residence of artist John J. Enneking, whose many renditions of the nearby Sunday River Covered Bridge (see N-4) gave it the name "Artist's Bridge," today the most photographed of Maine's nine remaining examples. The Locke House has also been the subject of a book by University of Maine Professor Emeritus Ruth Crosby entitled *I Was A Summer Boarder* (1966).

South of the Locke House, past the site of the former Locke Meetinghouse (1831-ca. 1865), stands the Charles Swan House (ca. 1830), once the site of the North Bethel post office. Restored to its original exterior appearance by the present owners, the center-chimneyed Cape stands at a crossroads long known as "Swan's Corner."

**B-20. EAMES-PHILBROOK HOUSE ("Roberts Poultry Farm")**

ca. 1835 and later. Route 2

Built by an influential town officer and member of the Maine legislature, the

Eames-Philbrook House consists of two similar high-posted Greek Revival Capes joined together, with the example furthest north projected forward of the other. Ebenezer Eames, Jr. settled in this spot beside the Sunday River, in close proximity to "Kendall's Ferry" which provided transportation across the Androscoggin to the nearby village center at Middle Intervale (see B-7). The original route to Bethel from Eames's farmstead included a Paddleford covered bridge which spanned the Sunday River just south of this site. After the death of Ebenezer Eames in 1870, the property was managed by his son-in-law, John M. Philbrook, a successful farmer and cattle broker who later built a fine Queen Anne house on Main Street at Bethel Hill (see B-11). Now part of a sprawling poultry complex which includes several late nineteenth century barns, the Eames-Philbrook House retains many of its early characteristics, including two interesting but different entry porticoes.

B-21. OLD ROUTE 2 HOUSES

Standing on the north side of a short segment of old Route 2 between Bethel Hill and West Bethel villages are five nineteenth century houses that represent popular forms of domestic architecture as interpreted by Bethel's rural builders. Now bypassed by the rush of traffic and modern construction, these buildings stand in an environment more closely resembling that of an earlier time.

At the east end of the road (nearest Bethel Hill) is the Captain Samuel Barker House, a Greek Revival structure displaying paneled corner pilasters, pedimented window and door heads, and a fashionable sidelighted entrance doorway. The house, with its long connecting ell and gable-roofed barn, was probably built in the 1840s; near this site stood the eighteenth century "camp" of Peter Austin, where Indians and their prisoners spent the night during the infamous Indian raid of 1781. Across the road is another, larger barn with attached stable section.

Further west, a two-and-a-half story house combining Federal and Greek Revival characteristics stands without its original ell and outbuildings. Probably dating from the 1830s, the structure has an appealing pilastered entrance doorway as its most notable feature. At the corners are paneled pilasters similar to those on the Barker House to the east. The house retains its original nine-over-six light sash. Further west is a high-posted Cape with Greek Revival trim and a large center chimney. The date "1820" painted on the chimney face is most likely the date the property was first settled, and not the construction date for the present building. The structure was long known as the Bean House.

Beyond a section of open fields are two substantial vernacular Greek Revival farmsteads that are very similar in form. That to the east was built ca. 1845 by Leonard Grover, a prosperous farmer and deacon of the Congregational Church at Bethel Hill. The westernmost example was built at about the same time (though the present barn carries the date "1858") by one of Grover's brothers. Called "Maple Lane Farm" during its years as a summer boarding house, the structure

presents a somewhat bolder design due in part to its more elaborate Greek Revival trim.



B-22. WEST BETHEL UNION CHURCH
1895-97. Route 2

An interesting study in late Victorian architectural tastes, the West Bethel Union Church is a remarkable Queen Anne structure that has survived essentially intact during nearly a century of use. The "West Bethel Union Chapel Aid Society," realizing that Bethel's westernmost village had no place "adequate for religious purposes," organized themselves in the 1890s with the purpose of erecting a church near the village center. In 1895, Alpheus S. Bean, a wealthy West Bethel merchant, lumberman, and land speculator, offered to build the present church. Completed in 1897, the well-preserved cross-gabled structure displays many of the details characteristic of the style, including stained-glass windows in a variety of shapes, textured wall surfaces sheathed in patterned wood shingles, delicate stick-like decorative trim in the gable ends, and a square tower with bell-shaped openings created by gracefully curved wooden brackets. The interior of the church is as notable as its exterior, with original pews and lighting fixtures in evidence.

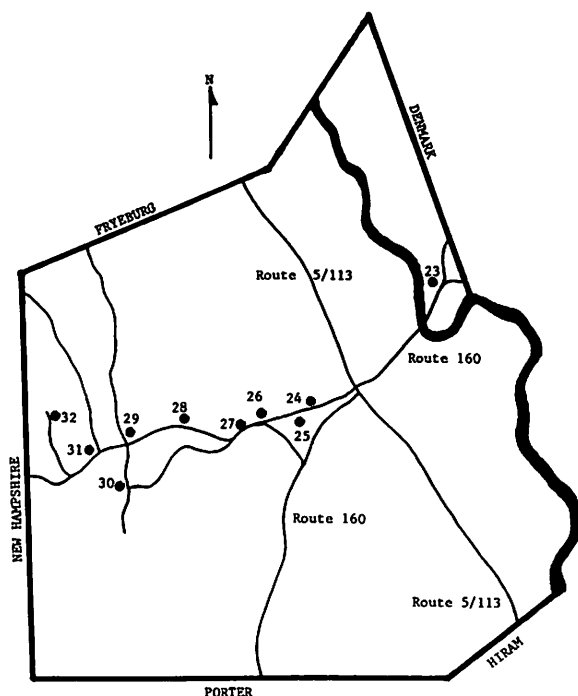
East of the church, on each side of the West Bethel Flat Road, are two wooden commercial structures of local importance. That closest to the church was erected in 1872 as a store for Milton Holt. The building has been extensively altered during a succession of owners. The store across the road was built by merchant A. J. Haskell in 1901 and retains much of its late Victorian wooden trim. In 1910, the short-lived "Dennison-Whitten Postcard Factory" operated from rooms on the second floor. Long known as "Head's Store," the building housed the West Bethel post office from 1926 to 1975.

The Allen-Hosterman House, south of the Holt Store on the Flat Road, is the finest Greek Revival residence in the village proper. Built in the 1850s, it consists of a five-bayed Cape with pediment-shaped window and door heads, connected to a very long rear ell and gable-roofed barn.

About a mile south on the Flat Road is the George W. Grover House, displaying a rather unorthodox vernacular Greek Revival gable-to-the-street facade of three-over-five bays. Built most likely in the 1840s, the house, now without its connecting sheds and barn, was preceded by an earlier house (1825) of log construction.

East of the village center, on the north side of Route 2, is the Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, a vernacular structure built in 1890 and enlarged in 1911. For many years the lower story contained a general merchandise store. One of two active granges in the town, the West Bethel society was organized in 1875.

BROWNFIELD



INTRODUCTION

The town of Brownfield lies in the Saco River valley just south of Fryeburg and within the foothills of the White Mountains. The town was granted to Captain Henry Young Brown, a veteran of the French and Indian Wars, in 1764. The main condition of Brown's grant was that he encourage at least thirty-eight families to move into the township by June 10, 1770, which task was readily accomplished. The first permanent settlement in Brownfield took place in the northwest corner of the "Plantation of Brownfield," as it was early called, in a section of territory that was annexed to Fryeburg at Brownfield's incorporation in 1802. Besides Captain Brown, who was there in 1764, other early residents were established near the New Hampshire line in the "Haley Neighborhood" and "Dennett Neighborhood" by 1766. Nathaniel Merrill, one of the first three men to settle nearby Fryeburg (1762-63), was hired by Brown to survey his land holdings; Merrill later became a Brownfield "patriarch."

Lumbering and agriculture were the economic basis for Brownfield's early existence, and the latter is still of some importance today. Until the 1940s, there were many water-powered mills of wide variety on the town's numerous streams and rivers, most notably those on Shepard's River, named for an eighteenth century hunter who once frequented the area. The West Oxford Agricultural Society, now headquartered off Main Street in Fryeburg, was organized in Brownfield in 1851. The Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, now the Maine Central, was completed through the eastern part of the town by 1871.

Among those from Brownfield who achieved particular distinction were George Albert Frost, noted artist; Dr. Philo T. Farnsworth, inventor and television pioneer; the Reverend Gideon T. Ridlon, author of the voluminous *Saco Valley Settlements and Families* (1895); and Paris Gibson, industrialist, U.S. senator, and founder of Great Falls, Montana.

Though historically and architecturally important structures still survive in Brownfield (particularly those mentioned in the text following), the major part of the town's "built environment" was destroyed in an extensive forest fire in October 1947; other towns in southwestern Maine, along with the resort community of Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island, suffered similar damage from fires late that year. In Brownfield, the fire destroyed most of both villages (Brownfield Center and East Brownfield, or "Brownfield Depot"), all of the public buildings, and three-fourths of the taxable property. In addition to one hundred and forty-eight houses, many of which were early nineteenth century hip-roofed or gable-roofed Federal style structures, the fire eliminated several architecturally important churches, including the Gothic Revival Universalist Church (1873), similar in design to Hiram's Universalist Church which remains extant (see H-36). The first public building raised after the fire was the Community Church at Brownfield Center, dedicated in August 1950. A decade before the fire, the Saco River Covered Bridge, a massive two-span enclosed structure on the road leading to Denmark Village from East Brownfield, was removed by high flood waters.

The general decline of farming, along with the disastrous fire of 1947, greatly reduced Brownfield's twentieth century population, though schools and several businesses were rebuilt soon after the fire. In 1880, at the height of agricultural production in much of Oxford County, Brownfield's population stood at 1,229 people. The 1980 census recorded only 767 individuals residing here.

B-23. HILL-DUNN FARMSTEAD

ca. 1875 and later. Route 160 near Denmark line

Constructed on the site of two earlier houses, the Hill-Dunn Farmstead is a remarkable connected structure of vernacular Queen Anne style standing between the Saco River and Brownfield's eastern boundary with Denmark. Albert R. Hill, the farmstead's builder and first occupant, was the second son of early Brownfield settler Nathaniel Hill of Saco and was one of the youngest men from



Brownfield to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War. Albert and his son Charles were highly successful farmers and productive citizens in the town, operating a local saw mill, installing the first "farmer's telephone line," and establishing a plant for the manufacture of folding clothes dryers.

This well-maintained nineteenth century farmstead, whose exterior surfaces and moldings appear in the typical contrasting colors of the Victorian period, eventually passed to a daughter's family, where it remains today. The structure's most notable feature is its siting, with the main house resting several feet lower than its more functional connections. The overall plan also places the largest unit, a massive wood frame barn, in between two sheds, one leading to the house and the other to a smaller barn. Of interest also is the unusually shaped barn cupola, reminiscent of the many independently-sited water towers that once dotted the Brownfield area.

Slightly northeast of the Hill-Dunn Farmstead and just off Route 160 is the Lord Schoolhouse (ca. 1846), built to house scholars in Brownfield's District Nine. This simple frame structure was in operation as a school until around 1902.

B-24. ICHABOD MERRILL HOUSE

ca. 1790. Main Street (Route 160) at Brownfield Village

Several houses situated between East Brownfield and Brownfield Center (now referred to simply as "Brownfield") escaped destruction during the fire of October 1947. The most significant of these is the "Old Merrill House," a well-proportioned, low-posted, five-bay Cape with nine-over-six paned sash and a later Greek Revival doorway with fluted pilasters and block moldings. Built by early settler Ichabod Merrill, this center-chimneyed structure originally stood on a ridge a short distance back from Main Street, but was moved, probably before



1825, to its present site. Considered to be the oldest structure in Brownfield, the house has had numerous occupants over its long history, including Eliza A. G. Stickney, author of *Reminiscences of Brownfield* (1901), who was born here in 1837. Attached to the west gable end of the Cape is a story-and-a-half ell of larger proportions. This frame addition was constructed soon after 1898 and replaced a much earlier ell with attached barn. The Merrill House, a remarkable survivor of a disastrous fire which consumed many of its neighbors, conveys an accurate picture of Brownfield's earliest framed houses.

Directly across the street is the pre-1850 Stanton-Walker House, a much plainer Cape that has been altered by the addition of large gabled dormers.

B-25. CHAPMAN STORE

ca. 1880s. Main Street (Route 160) at Brownfield Village

This substantial, little-altered, mansard-roofed frame structure is important not only for its associations with Brownfield's past, but also as a building form that became modestly popular for commercial purposes in Oxford County during the second half of the nineteenth century. Similar to larger examples that once stood in Market Square at South Paris Village and on Main Street at Dixfield Village, the Chapman Store has interesting hooded drip moldings, more often seen on Gothic Revival styled houses than on local wooden commercial blocks. This window treatment is carried over onto the large first-story store front openings. The bell-cast mansard roof is pierced by dormer windows capped with decorative hoods.



Across Main Street, the Gray-Wilson House is a late nineteenth century Victorian residence with an abundance of well-preserved decorative trim.



B-26. "THE BIRCHES" (Rev. Samuel Tyler House)
ca. 1810-20. Main Street (Route 160) at Brownfield Village

This small center-chimneyed Cape from the early nineteenth century was one of the very few structures at "Brownfield Center" to escape destruction in the October 1947 fire. Its original ell and barn intact, the house was named in the mid-nineteenth century for a cluster of birch trees between it and Shepard's River, whose nearby location helped save the house from its neighbors' fate.

"The Birches" stands opposite the Community Church (1950), the first public building raised after the fire. It is situated on the site of the former Tyler Memorial Congregational Church (1862) which burned in the 1947 fire; this earlier church was named for the Rev. Samuel Tyler, who donated funds for the structure and who resided in "The Birches" for many years.

Next to "The Birches" is the Spring House, a vernacular Greek Revival structure most likely built in the late 1840s and also saved from the fire of 1947. The late nineteenth century fence surrounding the property lends distinction to an otherwise modest village home. Opposite the Spring House, at the junction of Main Street with the road to South Hiram (Route 160) is the Brownfield Civil War monument, the only such memorial in the state to depict an identifiable Maine soldier. Carried out by noted Boston sculptor John A. Wilson, the seven foot statue is a likeness of Private Daniel A. Bean, a Brownfield native killed during battle in 1864. The monument was dedicated with great fanfare in September 1911.



B-27. TOWN HALL ("Cram Schoolhouse")

ca. 1846 and later. Main Street at Brownfield Village

Immediately after the disastrous 1947 fire, the town offices, destroyed in the blaze, were established in a Maine Central baggage car on tracks in East Brownfield. Soon, however, more permanent quarters were sought, and the Cram Schoolhouse (District Seventeen), located a few miles west of Brownfield Center, was moved to the site of the old Town Hall on Main Street. Originally built around 1846 and the last district school in Brownfield to close (1929), the structure now at the foot of "Bean Hill" is a simple vernacular building whose only decorative elements are broad, flat cornice modillions that form a striking contrast with the tightly-clapboarded wall surface. Alterations in 1947 included an addition to the

rear, the installation of double doors at the center of the three-bay facade, and a complete remodeling of the interior.

B-28. HILL HOUSE

ca. 1870. Hampshire Road

The Hill House is a two-and-a-half story building with weathered sides and a succession of ells connected to its west wall. Spared by the 1947 fire, the house is a fine representative of the large five-bayed vernacular structures that were raised throughout the county in the second half of the nineteenth century.

B-29. "SHEPARD'S RIVER FARM" (Wentworth-Durgin Farmstead)

ca. 1820 and later. Old County Road and Hampshire Road

This large, well-sited, connected farmstead was originally the home of one of Brownfield's early families, the Wentworths. It was moved before 1860 from its original site on "Corn Hill" in West Brownfield to a crossroads location west of "Brownfield Center." By 1880 the property was being called an "estate," and local tradition has it that the extensive ells and barn were added before this time. Purchased by the Durgin family soon after that date, the property became one of the most successfully operated farms in the town. The Red Cross was stationed here temporarily after the 1947 fire.

B-30. NATHANIEL MERRILL HOUSE

ca. 1798-1801. Merrill's Corner

This story-and-a-half frame house with five-bay gabled facade displaying twelve-over-twelve paned sash was the home of Nathaniel Merrill, one of Brownfield's most notable early residents. One of three men to venture from Gorham, Maine, to Fryeburg in the fall of 1762, Merrill soon occupied a portion of the "Seven Lots," an area laid out by Colonel Joseph Frye at what is now Fryeburg Village. Before leaving Fryeburg for nearby Brownfield, this veteran of Rogers' Rangers constructed what is now considered to be the oldest documented house (before 1767) extant in Oxford County (see F-20). Merrill was also an accomplished surveyor and ran the lines for a 1764 grant made to Henry Young Brown; this tract soon received the name "Plantation of Brownfield." During his years in Fryeburg, Nathaniel Merrill became one of the town's most enthusiastic promoters, as he would soon be in Brownfield. He was a petitioner both for the incorporation of Fryeburg in 1777, and for the establishment of Fryeburg Academy, the county's oldest such institution, in 1792.



Nathaniel Merrill moved south to Brown's grant around 1797, purchased a hillside lot of land, and erected the oldest portion of the present house. After the incorporation of the town in 1802, Merrill occupied several town positions of importance, including that of moderator at a special meeting called in 1807 to settle the eastern boundary with the new town of Denmark. In 1818, at the age of 80, Merrill is recorded as operating a grist mill on nearby Shepard's River. He and several generations of the Merrill family are buried in the nearby Merrill's Corner Cemetery.

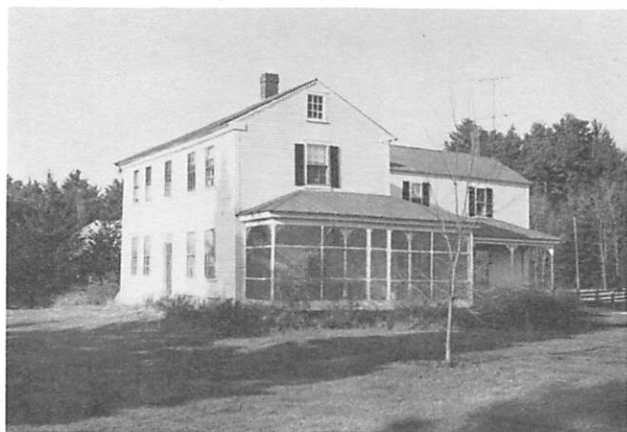
To the south and higher up on this hillside location, the Eaton House (ca. 1800) is an L-shaped Federal style structure exhibiting numerous additions and later stylistic alterations.

Both the Merrill and Eaton families settled in a portion of the town known as the "Highlands of Brownfield." From their elevated homesites may still be viewed one of the most impressive vistas of the White Mountains, with Mount Washington's glassy peak rising high above the nearby hills.

B-31. AUGUSTUS WENTWORTH HOUSE

1807. Hampshire Road in West Brownfield

This one-room-deep, five-bay Federal style house exhibits many of the characteristics of the county's early nineteenth century domestic architecture but is unusual in that it was originally designed to house *two* families (the east-facing north ell contains a second main entrance). The house has had numerous occupants over the years, and in adapting to later tastes and attitudes, several of them remodeled portions of the interior. The most significant alteration has been the removal of the house's large center chimney, with the subsequent elimination of interior fireplaces. While the window sash has been "updated" to the six-over-six paned types of the Greek Revival period, the Wentworth House



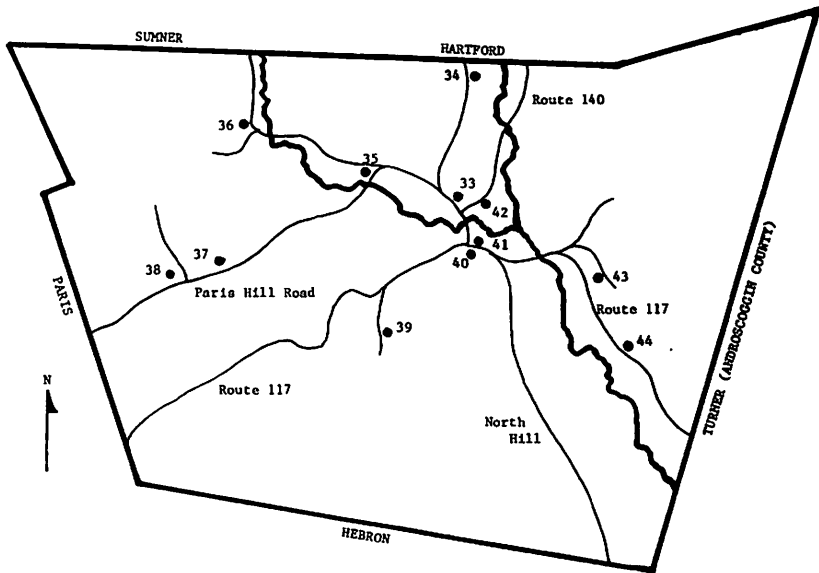
retains a simple transomed entrance at the center of the south facade; most houses exhibiting the lighter proportions of the Federal style in the county display a fan doorway. The bracketed porch on the house's east wall was probably added around the turn-of-the-century.

B-32. ELA-CHAMBERLAIN FARMSTEAD

1835. Off Hampshire Road in West Brownfield

This central-chimneyed five-bay Cape with connecting sheds and barn was built in 1835 by Seth Ela, formerly of Conway, New Hampshire. In 1868, Samuel Chamberlain became owner of the former Ela House. His father, John Chamberlain, had purchased much of the western part of Brownfield in 1812 from the Cutts family of Saco. Continuing to farm the rich uplands around the property, Samuel Chamberlain was the grandfather of the present occupants. Though the addition of two shed dormers (after 1891) above the house's facade somewhat reduces the effect of this low-posted Cape, the structure is certainly the oldest in this, the "Dennett Neighborhood" of West Brownfield.

BUCKFIELD



INTRODUCTION

The rolling hills of Buckfield were well-known to certain Maine hunters and trappers previous to the American Revolution, but it was not until 1776 that Benjamin Spaulding of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, became the town's first settler by constructing a primitive log "cabin" within the present limits of Buckfield Village. That same year, several men from New Gloucester, Maine, came north to Turner and traveled up the Nezinscot River (formerly called "Twenty Mile River") in search of suitable lands upon which to establish a new community. Among those in this group were brothers Abijah and Nathaniel Buck, Thomas Allen, and John Brown. Having sold his New Gloucester property holdings for what was then considered a large sum of money, Abijah Buck quickly assumed a patriarchal role in encouraging further settlement. The first families came to "Bucktown," as it soon came to be called, via the ice-covered Androscoggin and Nezinscot rivers, in March of 1777.

Though efforts to organize a township were made here as early as 1780, the General Court at Boston was reluctant to sell large tracts of land in the vicinity until an accurate survey had been made; such was finally carried out in 1785. A year later, a number of men, Buckfield's "proprietors," purchased the township for two shillings an acre. Three men who had established homes here, Abijah

Buck, Benjamin Spaulding, and Dominicus Record, all became well-to-do as members of this influential group. Frequently listed on late eighteenth century maps as simply "Number Five," the township was incorporated and named in honor of Abijah Buck in 1793.

In all Oxford County towns, the earliest economic and social developments centered around the construction of saw and grist mills, and by 1781, Edmund Chandler of New Gloucester had erected mills at present-day Buckfield Village. Soon after, commercial growth at what remains Buckfield's population center began in earnest. Buckfield's nineteenth century dependence on agriculture can be seen today in its numerous surviving rural farmsteads, many of which retain their earlier character. In 1847, a group of Buckfield men chartered themselves as the "Buckfield Branch Railroad," and so began a short-lived era when rail transportation brought prosperity to this eastern Oxford County town. Buckfield's later nineteenth century development parallels that of other county towns which, by the turn-of-the-century, saw a rapid decline in agricultural production due to the rise of western markets and alterations in Maine transportation routes.

Of those personalities connected with Buckfield's two centuries of history, the names of Virgil D. Parris, John D. Long, and Seba Smith are worth noting briefly. Parris, born here in 1807, went on to become a successful lawyer and congressman. One of the founders of the Buckfield Branch Railroad (and its first president), he also served as acting governor of Maine in 1844. John D. Long, instrumental in saving the county's finest Federal style church from destruction in the 1890s, attained the positions of Massachusetts governor and U.S. Secretary of the Navy under William McKinley. The Zadoc Long Library, designed by Maine's most famous architect, John Calvin Stevens, stands at the village center as his gift to the town. Born in Buckfield in 1792, Seba Smith began the publication of the *Portland Courier*, Maine's first daily newspaper, in 1829. Here first appeared the "Major Jack Downing Letters" which in satirizing contemporary politics, earned Smith a reputation as one of Maine's earliest humorists. Smith's wife, Elizabeth Oakes Smith, was an even more successful writer than her husband, producing numerous novels, poems, and plays.

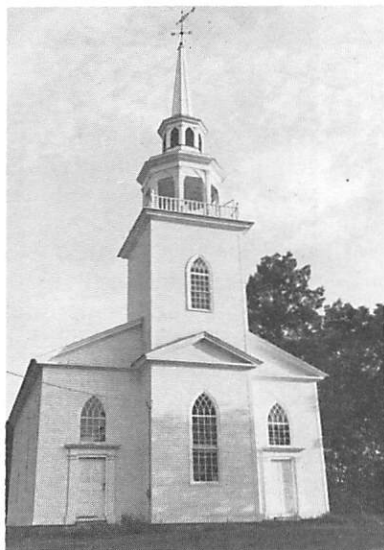
Despite shifting employment patterns, Buckfield's physical appearance resembles that of the pre-Civil War period, with Buckfield Village and North Buckfield remaining as the historic centers of community activity. Important examples of several eighteenth and nineteenth century architectural styles still exist in the town, and a group of concerned local citizens, entrusted with the care of the historic Union Church, have documented Buckfield's past through an active publications program. The town's population of some 1,300 people in 1880 is almost the exact number of those living here today.

B-33. HIGH STREET

Off Route 117 at Buckfield Village

From its upper corner where roads diverge to Sumner and to the village at North Buckfield, down the hill to the West Branch of the Nezinscot River where the town's mills long clustered and its commercial district grew up, High Street in Buckfield Village contains an important concentration of buildings typical of those erected by citizens of an industrious rural Maine town during the nineteenth century. Near the base of the hill passed the railroad that for a brief period at mid-century raised a hope of great prosperity. Close to the top stands the 1831-32 Union Church, a Federal style structure with a graceful spire visible for miles. Clustered at these two ends are early Capes and two-storied framed houses, some of which have sustained extensive alterations over time. Between the church and the old railroad bed stretches a row of houses exhibiting rural versions of the Greek Revival, as well as a single Gothic Revival structure and a few early twentieth century buildings.

At the upper end of the street, in the triangle between the roads to North Buckfield and Sumner, is the Federal style Dr. William Bridgman House, the home of one of Buckfield's first physicians. Built in 1817 as a hip-roofed structure, it has been extensively altered. On the northeast corner of High Street is the less prepossessing residence of his son, Dr. William P. Bridgman; the house has a one-room-deep plan, and though built during the Federal period, now exhibits details of both Gothic and Greek Revival character. The decorative treatment of the porch columns displays a pattern similar to that used on several other buildings in Buckfield and nearby towns.

*Union Church*

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Below, on the east side, is the Union Church (1831-32), more commonly known as the "Old Church on the Hill." Now listed on the National Register, the church drew design elements from the Norway and Livermore Universalist churches but achieved a strong individual character. The combination of Gothic Revival pointed-arch windows and simple Greek Revival enframements at the two entrance doors is notable. Within, the auditorium has a coved ceiling; the rear gallery, raised on slender posts, has an incurving wall with delicate decoration. Derelict in 1894, the church was repaired by native son John D. Long and deeded to the town. Presently maintained by the town under the direction of an appointed committee, the Union Church is Oxford County's finest Federal style ecclesiastical structure.



Oren Record House

Two doors below the church is the substantial early house of Oren Record, once hip-roofed, but extensively altered and modernized late in the nineteenth century by the Irish family, owners of a local saw mill. The porches added at that time have been removed during the last decade.

Below the Record-Irish House are two side-hall, story-and-a-half houses of Greek Revival style, probably raised early in the 1850s; they are notable for their integration of house and barn into a unified composition. Three doors further down is the dormered Greek Revival building built for Buckfield Academy in 1840 but transformed into a residence by 1849. Below it is a graceful Cape with corner boards mixing Greek and Gothic Revival motifs in a manner similar to that on the William P. Bridgham House (see above). Below the Cape is the street's only Gothic Revival house, probably built ca. 1845. Of side-hall plan, it has many features typical of the style (rarely used in western Maine as compared with the Greek Revival), such as steep roofs, a sheathing of wide boards scored to simulate stone, and Gothic drip moldings over its windows. Below this is a Greek Revival house updated at the turn-of-the-century with diamond tracery and protruding



old Buckfield Academy Building



Gothic Revival house

dormers. Beyond an early twentieth century vernacular house of simple character is another Greek Revival story-and-a-half house with its main door within a small columned porch at the right of the facade, a variant of the style not often seen in Oxford County.

Beyond the railroad cut is one of the oldest houses in Buckfield Village, originally built by Dominicus Record about 1790. Record was an early settler and entrepreneur for whom the village was originally named "Record's Mills." The early two-story house was purchased and improved by Zadoc Long ca. 1834 (see also B-40). Long later utilized the building as an inn. Its present exterior appearance includes decorative work of Italianate character. Within the rear wing



Hotel Long

are numerous small rooms fitted up for travelers in the style of the mid-nineteenth century. At different times, the inn was called the Nezinscot House, the Maple House, and the Hotel Long. The small building below, now two stories high, was built as a one-story law office late in the nineteenth century. The house of simplified Queen Anne design that holds the prominent corner of Morrill and High streets to the right of the law office was built in 1894 on the site of America Farrar's Buckfield House, a noted nineteenth century hostelry which burned.



vernacular Greek Revival house

On the west side of the street, at the river, stands the shingled Masonic Hall of 1927. Above it is a low-posted Cape given Federal character by its fan doorway.

This structure may be the one the Buckfield *History* records as the house owned at mid-century by Ephraim Atwood, a noted storekeeper in the village. Above the railroad cut, the first house is a much-altered Cape, which in the late nineteenth century carried a tower on its down-hill side. Above it, the large house set back from the road, now somewhat Italianate in character with late nineteenth century porches, was originally a hip-roofed house recorded as belonging in 1825 to James Jewett, a prosperous cabinetmaker. Above it begins a row of structures predominantly Greek Revival in character, all in place by the late 1850s. The first above the Jewett House has a large two-and-a-half story addition built ca. 1900. The steep-roofed gable over the central door of the High Street facade is echoed by the end gable of the addition. The floor-length windows with Greek Revival enframements are notable. Several of the houses higher up on this side have pleasant late-nineteenth century porches. Above these is a gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival design of 1906, with a Palladian window set into the gambrel on the down-hill side.

Past a post-World War II ranch style house above are two early Capes. The example displaying a five-bayed facade towards the street was the residence of Nathan Atwood in 1825. Above it, with its major facade to the side, is a large, broad-roofed Cape trimmed in Greek Revival moldings.

High Street is one of three in Buckfield Village which together still clearly reflect in their buildings the characteristic townscape of nineteenth century Buckfield, away from the mills and stores that clustered about the Nezinscot River. Nearby, Morrill Street has notable Capes, and a fine set of almost mirror-twin Greek Revival townhouse/farmsteads. On Turner Street (Route 117) are a number of structures reflecting the village's earlier character, including a church (see B-41), an Odd Fellows Hall, a number of spaciouly set Capes, and several mid-nineteenth century two-storied vernacular houses. In addition, Turner Street holds the town's only mansard-roofed house.

B-34. JAMES BONNEY HOUSE

ca. 1795 and later. Old Sumner Road off High Street

This broad-roofed, low-posted Cape is one of the finest survivors of its type in Buckfield. Erected by James Bonney, a Pembroke, Massachusetts, native who purchased this property adjoining the southern border of Sumner in 1789, the house retains many original features, including its centrally-located brick chimney. During a later period, the structure was reworked in the Greek Revival style, an effort that produced the open porch supported by square posts along the west gable end. At the same time, the major entrance, formerly at the center of the Cape's five-bay south facade, was re-located to this side. The exterior shutters are also a later addition. Inside, a number of early features are intact, including a room with vertical boarding (probably from the house's first period), a fine wall of paneled cabinets in the kitchen area of the ell (probably from the Greek Revival remodeling), and a lightly-scaled, graceful stair rail in the front hall.



James Bonney spent several years establishing his Buckfield farmstead and did not move the rest of his family here until 1799. His son, James Bonney, prominent in town affairs, and his grandson, Albion Bonney, who became a state senator, lived on the homestead through the nineteenth century. The house has been recently refurbished by its current owner but still conveys the late eighteenth century character of one of Buckfield's earliest homes.



B-35. ABIJAH BUCK HOUSE

ca. 1790. Junction of Paris Hill and North Buckfield roads

This massive, two-and-a-half story frame house, with its huge central chimney intact, was built in the late eighteenth century for town founder and early

settler/proprietor, Abijah Buck. The gable-roofed structure may have been raised under the supervision of Nathaniel Buck, Abijah's younger brother, who was an early settler and prominent housewright.

A man of some wealth and influence, Abijah Buck visited parts of the town in 1776 looking for the best lots upon which to establish a new community; he moved to this site from New Gloucester, Maine, in April of 1777. This austere but imposing structure, which replaced a smaller log house, retains many early features, including, on the first story, paneled fireplace walls in simple late Georgian style, a corner cupboard, field-paneled wainscoting, and "Indian" shutters. Mantels in the upper story exhibit Federal style characteristics. The second story also contains a stenciled room. The major facade of the house, which displays a boldly proportioned doorway with wide entablature supported by framing pilasters, faces the west branch of the Nezinscot River.

Interestingly, the second story of the rear ell of the Buck House is made up of a complete early one-and-a-half story house, with partitions between rooms removed but with simple stenciling intact on the interior walls. During much of the nineteenth century, the Buck House was owned by Albert D. White, a local tanner who served as sheriff of Oxford County.

B-36. RIVER ROAD HOUSES, NORTH BUCKFIELD

River Road off North Buckfield Road

Within Buckfield's smaller village, this varied row of nineteenth century houses lines the west branch of the Nezinscot River. At the southern end, where the "Darnit Road" turns west, is the house of Larnard Swallow, probably dating from the second decade of the nineteenth century, though it displays later Greek Revival and Victorian decorative elements. Swallow was a blacksmith at North Buckfield, and a prominent holder of town office. Beyond the Swallow House is a side-hall house with ell in a post-Civil War style. Next is a Greek Revival Cape, once the home of Joshua Heald, of the family that long ran the saw mill on the river opposite the houses (from the 1840s until 1878, powder mills were operated just north of the village by Paris Hill businessman Jarvis C. Marble). Beyond a larger story-and-a-half house is the two-and-a-half story Colonel Washington Heald House (ca. 1855) which is trimmed in quoins but otherwise presents a Greek Revival appearance. This structure is followed by a low-posted Cape, where Heald first lived.

The ca. 1785 house of John Warren, first settler in the North Buckfield area, still stands out of the village a short way to the northwest, at a bend halfway up the hill.



B-37. NOAH PRINCE HOUSE

ca. 1831. Paris Hill Road

Fronted by an inset, columned porch (a rare feature on Oxford County houses), this is the second house built on the farm of Job Prince, who came from Kingston, Massachusetts, to "Bucktown" in 1788. The columns and entry door enframement are lightly-scaled, more Federal in character than Greek Revival. Inside, the story-and-a-half house has well-crafted moldings in both late Federal and Greek Revival style; the cellar is completely floored in split granite.

Tradition states that Job Prince's house was completed just in time for his funeral there in 1831. Noah Prince, his son, inherited the farm and lived here during much of the nineteenth century. Noah Prince served in numerous town positions before becoming a four-term representative to the Maine legislature. He also occupied the positions of state senator and president of the Maine senate in the 1850s, and was one of the founders and directors of the Buckfield Branch Railroad.

The large barn nearby was erected early in this century, during the ownership of Fred Cooper. In the fine quality of its finish and in some aspects of its design, the Prince House resembles the Sharon Robinson House at East Sumner Village (see S-13).

B-38. "DEACON" DAVID FARRAR HOUSE

ca. 1825. Paris Hill Road

The site of this square, brick, hip-roofed house was the first settled in the western part of Buckfield, nearest the Paris town line. David Farrar, a housewright and farmer from Hingham, Massachusetts, cleared land and erected a log house here in 1787. In this primitive shelter was reared his eldest son, David Farrar, Jr.,



later known as "Deacon" Farrar; the younger Farrar constructed the present house around 1825.

Built of bricks burned in a kiln near the brook below, the foursquare Federal style house has a later Greek Revival entry porch which opens directly into the two front rooms of the first floor; at present, a single long room occupies the rear half of the building. This space to the rear apparently had doors at either end as originally designed. That to the right has been bricked up; the other has been made into a window. Originally built with three chimneys, with that for the kitchen hearth on the rear wall, the house is small for such treatment, being about twenty-two feet square. Sited at the crown of a hill, it appears convincingly larger.

The wood frame barn next door was probably built by George Bennett, a Buckfield Village storekeeper who purchased the Farrar farmstead around 1859 and lived there until his death in 1892. At some point in its history, the barn was enlarged and its roof changed from gable to gambrel.

B-39. LEONARD-DUDLEY FARMSTEAD

ca. 1803 and later. McAllister Road off Streaked Mountain Road (Route 117)

The Leonard-Dudley Farmstead is significant as an essentially unchanged early nineteenth century farm grouping with ties to the town's formative years. The house of the farmstead is a small Cape, extended to the rear between 1820 and 1825. The free-standing outbuildings are notable and include a small English barn, a pig house/hen house built in the late 1850s, and a shingled spring house.

The Leonard family came from Middleborough, Massachusetts, to Buckfield. The second generation included Nathaniel, a surveyor, Jacob, a farmer, and



Susannah, a teacher, all of whom lived on this farmstead until their deaths. Perin Dudley later had a blacksmith shop on the property, but this structure has since been taken down.



B-40. ZADOC LONG FREE LIBRARY

1901. Corner of Turner Street (Route 117) and Loring Hill Road

Designed by Portland architect John Calvin Stevens and built by John M. Murch, the Buckfield Village library was given to the town by Buckfield native John D. Long, governor of Massachusetts (1880-1882) and Secretary of the Navy (1897-

1902) under William McKinley. The Library memorializes Long's parents, Zadoc, a Buckfield merchant, and Julia Long.

Combining elements of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles, the building is a low, hip-roofed structure resting on a base of granite and rubble stone. The central door has a semi-elliptical enframement with sidelights articulated in diamond tracery. The entrance is surmounted by a protruding central gable raised on brackets. The small, high windows to the left of the door light the stacks, and the long windows to the right light the reading room. Inside, a stone fireplace in the reading room is flanked by built-in reading nooks. In the library's collection are paintings and photographs of the Long family, a painting of Buckfield's Union Church (see B-33) by the Library's architect, John Calvin Stevens, and a remarkable drawing of Buckfield Village ca. 1848 done by a local woman, Olivia Record.

On the opposite corner, across Loring Hill Road, is a flush-boarded Greek Revival commercial building dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Despite interior renovations, the building retains much of its earlier character. South of Buckfield Village, on North Hill Road, is the John D. Long House, a well-preserved Cape farmstead which was once the home of several generations of the Long family.



B-41. COMMUNITY CHURCH ("Baptist Church")

1873. Turner Street (Route 117)

A simple late Gothic Revival structure, the Community Church was constructed in 1873 as a Baptist church for Buckfield Village. The present building replaced an

earlier one, also of Gothic design, which was built in 1855 and, with a two-and-a-half story brick schoolhouse, stood across the street. Both structures were destroyed by fire in 1872.

Composed of a rectangular block with bell tower set back from the gabled street facade along one of the side walls, the clapboard-sheathed church conveys its Gothic qualities mainly through its pointed-arch openings, seen on the main block, the tower base, and the open belfry. The walls at the belfry level are covered with flush-boarding, a wall treatment usually restricted to Greek Revival buildings in the county. The tall steeple helps to emphasize the "pointed style" conveyed by an otherwise plain wood frame structure. A small, gable-roofed addition, constructed in this century, has been attached to the church's rear wall. In form and exterior decoration, the Buckfield Community Church resembles the Methodist Church at Rumford Falls as originally built (see R-21).



B-42. FARRAR-SHAW HOUSE

ca. 1803, ca. 1850. Morrill Street

Shown on Olivia Record's ca. 1848 village sketch as a Cape, this building probably had its two-and-a-half story Gothic Revival main block grafted onto the right side of the early house shortly thereafter. Through much of its subsequent history, the house had decorative Gothic bargeboards along the edges of its steeply-gabled roofs. A remarkable Gothic Revival entrance doorway with unusual pointed sidelights remains, as do the Gothic window enframements. On the interior, much of the main block's woodwork has a Greek rather than a Gothic character. As well, some elements of the early Cape interior survive, including wide wainscoting in some rooms.

B-43. ENOCH HALL HOUSE

ca. 1792. Bean Road off Route 117

This central-chimneyed Cape, with five-bayed facade and low-pitched roof, has several elements of Federal character, including the unusual louvered element surmounting the door, Federal mantels on the first story, and, on the second story, several muraled rooms painted with stylistic scenes of rural life. The murals in the cove-ceilinged room at one end of the upper story include animals and human figures in different scales. The birds in the stylized trees suggest the manner of Orison Wood, a mural painter known to have worked in Turner and Lisbon. The upstairs hall is simply painted with a motif of stylized trees.

Enoch Hall was an early settler in Buckfield, arriving from Windham, Maine, in 1783. He was, in later years, the town's representative to the Massachusetts General Court and its first representative in Maine's state legislature.

**B-44. PRATT-SHAW HOUSE**

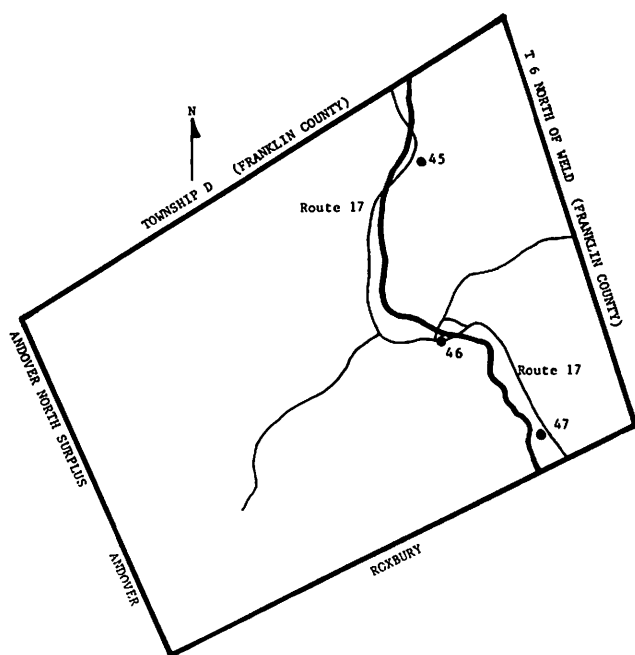
ca. 1815. Route 117 (Turner Street)

One of the least-altered Federal style houses in eastern Oxford County, this two-and-a-half story brick structure was built around 1815 on the major route from Buckfield Village to Turner. Notable features are the building's gable-end chimneys, the single-story brick ell, and a fine fan doorway with a design (a semi-circular wood fan within a semi-elliptical brick opening) unique in Buckfield; there are several doorways in wood of similar design at Paris Hill Village (see P-2). The barns at the rear of the property are thought to be contemporary with the house. They have always been separate from it.

Beautifully sited among fields, this house and the large early Cape (also with an unusually framed doorway) of the Spaulding family beyond it toward Turner are important architectural anchors within this open landscape.

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BYRON



INTRODUCTION

Known as "Plantation Number Eight" before its incorporation in 1833, Byron was settled in the early years of the nineteenth century by those looking for farmland and water power sites north of the older communities of Mexico and Rumford. Lieutenant John Stockbridge, a veteran of the American Revolution, came here between 1814 and 1816 and quickly assumed a patriarchal position in the community; a justice of the peace, he called the first town meeting on March 1, 1833. Among others who cleared farmsteads before incorporation were Richard and Mary Merrill and Abraham and Ruth Reed. Tradition has it that the town was named for the English poet, Lord George Gordon Byron, whose death had occurred in 1824.

Byron saw modest agricultural growth during the nineteenth century, but with the completion of the Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad in 1895, the eastern part of the town experienced a brief period of industrial and commercial growth. For several years, vast quantities of locally-cut timber were sent to the paper-producing mills at Rumford Falls during the winter, while tourists by the thousands made the trip to the Rangeley Lakes over the same line in summer. The

railroad continued to function in a reduced capacity until heavily damaged by flood waters in 1936. Since the nineteenth century, Byron has maintained a reputation as a popular site for gold prospecting, one well-supported by several early "strikes." Today, the town serves mainly as a bedroom community for the larger population center at Rumford.

Byron's population totaled 191 people in 1880. It had dropped to 114 according to 1980 census statistics.



B-45. HOUGHTON BOARDING HOUSE

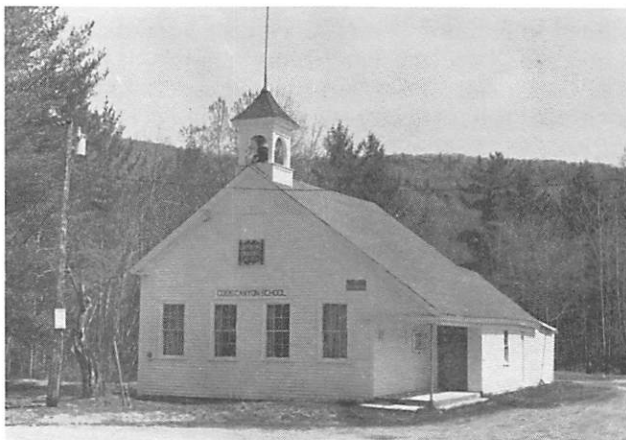
ca. 1880. Route 17

The Houghton Boarding House is significant for its historic associations with Byron's now-faded era of lumbering and railroad activity. A massive frame structure located on a commanding site above the road and nearby river, the Boarding House was utilized by local lumbermen after the Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad was completed through the Swift River valley in 1895. In addition, this northern section of the town received the name "Houghton" when a small railway station (no longer standing) was built and named for John Houghton, a successful local businessman who owned extensive lands nearby. Restored on its exterior, the Boarding House is an important survivor from an earlier era of commercial and industrial development.

B-46. TOWN HALL ("Coos Canyon School")

ca. 1875. Route 17

The only public building in this small Oxford County town, the former Coos



Canyon Schoolhouse was built in the second half of the nineteenth century to provide rural education for a population mostly situated along the banks of the boulder-strewn Swift River. Retaining its small-paned sash and pyramidal-roofed belfry, the school remained in use well into this century. Facilities for Byron's town government presently occupy the structure.



B-47. KNAPP FARMSTEAD

ca. 1845. Route 17

This relatively unaltered connected farmstead is an important representative of practical, unstyled county architecture raised in the mid-nineteenth century. Located just north of the Roxbury/Byron town line, the extended, clapboarded

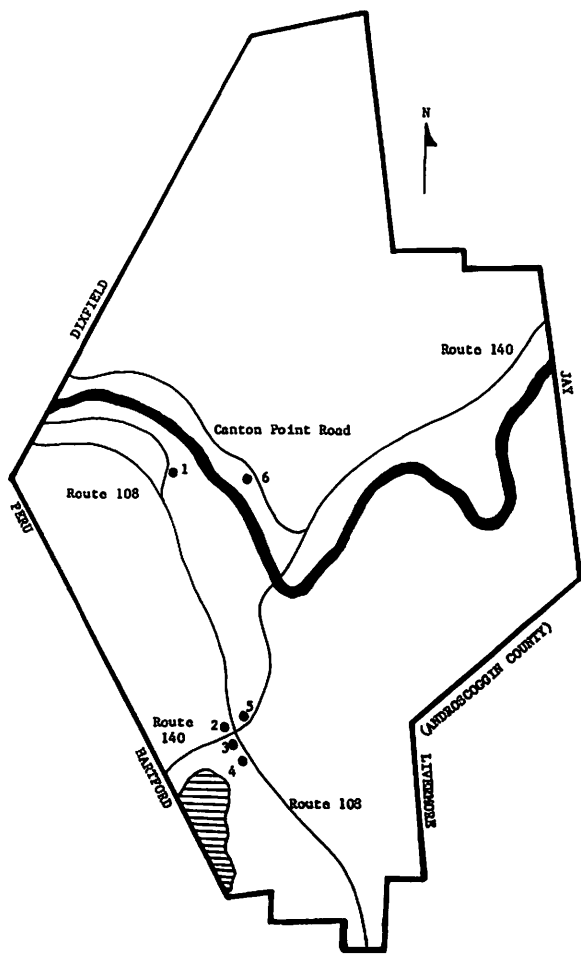
structure stands amid open fields on the west side of the road. A town that was once highly dependent on agricultural production, Byron is now strongly oriented towards the commercial and industrial activity in Mexico and Rumford to the south. The Knapp Farmstead is undoubtedly one of northern Oxford County's best preserved examples of its type.



S. Knapp House

North and on the same side of the road is the Bartlett House, a vernacular two-and-a-half story structure which shows Greek Revival influence in its pedimented gable end with two-story porch. The house may date to the early 1850s. Across the road is the S. Knapp House, a large five-bayed two-and-a-half story residence with a sidelighted doorway, pedimented gable ends, a wide entablature, and paneled corner pilasters with no capitals. The house provides proof of the longevity of earlier house forms, there being much earlier examples in the county of similar overall appearance.

CANTON



INTRODUCTION

Divided by the broad Androscoggin River, Canton was first settled by white men in the 1790s. For centuries previous to this, the Canton Point section of the town was a major Abenaki Indian occupation site known to Maine's early English settlers as "Rokomeka." This prehistoric aboriginal locality, one of the most important of its type in Oxford County, is well-documented through both written records and archaeological evidence. History records the abandonment of the

Indian village at this sweeping bend in the river sometime during the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

Canton's political existence dates to the year 1771, when a grant was made of the present towns of Jay and Canton to representatives of men who had fought against Canada in 1690. One of several "Canada Townships" in the county, this grant to seventy-two Watertown, Massachusetts, area men became known as "Phips Canada," after David Phips, signer of the original petition. Despite a survey of the township carried out in 1772, settlement did not commence until after the first saw and grist mills were erected by Deacon Elijah Livermore in 1791; for the most part, early farmsteads were concentrated at Jay Hill, several miles from what is now Canton's eastern border. By 1795, sufficient population had been achieved and Phips Canada was incorporated as the town of Jay, after John Jay, a leading American statesman of the period. During the early nineteenth century, settlement became so advanced that on February 5, 1821, the western half of Jay was incorporated as Canton, after the Massachusetts town by the same name.

By 1800, those who had settled within what is now Canton included William Livermore, William French, Moses Coolidge, Peter Austin, and Edward Shepard. In 1815, Gustavus Hayford came from nearby Hartford to present-day Canton Village, where he erected the first mills and framed house there. Because of this early effort at industry, the village was long known as "Hayford's Mills." Though several other water-powered industries developed here, the arrival of the railroad in 1870 brought a new period of prosperity to the town. In the 1880s, when the town reached its peak population of some 1,300 people, a foundry, pulp mill, lumber mill, creamery, tannery, and newspaper, *The Canton Telephone*, existed here. The "Androscoggin Valley Agricultural Association," begun in 1884, held large-scale fairs outside Canton Village well into the twentieth century. Once the railroad had been extended to Rumford Falls, however, business began a gradual decline, one which saw the transformation of Canton into a mostly residential community by the 1960s.

While the political careers of congressmen Dr. Cornelius Holland and John P. Swasey brought outside attention to this small Maine town in earlier times, numerous examples of interesting local architecture, as well as attractive rural settings, still draw visitors. The Canton Historical Society, organized in 1975, has begun to document the town's built environment, much of which has unfortunately suffered through inappropriate remodeling and neglect in recent years.

According to 1980 census figures, 831 people resided in Canton, including the areas of Canton Point, Canton Village, Gilbertville, and Meadowview. A century ago, some 1,200 people made their homes here.



C-1. "HERSDALE" (Warren Ward House)

ca. 1875. Old Route 108

Though time has taken its toll on this once elaborate estate, "Hersdale" remains one of Canton's most interesting late nineteenth century farmsteads. In the 1870s, Maine-born Warren Ward, a wealthy New York furniture manufacturer, retired to this spot near the Androscoggin River. After purchasing some fifteen hundred acres, Ward directed the construction of a rambling main house, several large barns, and a few cottages for his hired help. Located at the end of a tree-shaded approach, the two-and-a-half story vernacular Victorian Ward House retains one of its connecting ells with attached stable. Used as a horse and cattle breeding farm for many years, "Hersdale" recalls an earlier era of nineteenth century prosperity.

C-2. CANTON VILLAGE BUILDINGS

West Side of Route 108

Though little remains of what was once a bustling "boom town" with hotels, stores, mills, and railroad terminus, several structures along Route 108 at Canton Village are worthy of brief note. At the junction of routes 108 and 140, near the town's Civil War monument, is a brick store dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Now serving as a general merchandise establishment and town post office, the two-and-a-half story structure has had its original first story windows altered to unsympathetic single-paned types. North of the store and beyond a wooden Cape displaying Federal characteristics is the Scudder House (ca. 1885), a tall brick Victorian structure of some design interest. The Queen Anne styled house next door, now called "Victorian Villa," was the village home of John P. Swasey, a prominent county attorney, state senator, and U.S. congressman. Further north is a

brick Cape dating from the late 1830s. At the northern edge of the village stands a relatively untouched story-and-a-half early nineteenth century house with an asymmetrical facade and clapboard sheathing.

On Route 140, west of the village center, are several good examples of elaborate Queen Anne houses.



C-3. CANTON RAILROAD STATION

ca. 1870-80. Route 108 at Canton Village

Built as the northern terminus for the Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad, this gable-roofed Victorian structure has large wooden eaves brackets that hint of the Stick style. The well-preserved example of a now-rare building type in Maine is the finest surviving wooden railroad station in Oxford County.

In 1847 a group of Buckfield businessmen, grasping at an opportunity to utilize the new Portland to Montreal railroad line being constructed through central Oxford County (the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad), chartered themselves as the "Buckfield Branch Railroad" and elected as their president former Maine congressman and Buckfield native Virgil D. Parris. Built to serve the easternmost parts of the county, the line soon extended from Mechanic Falls through Minot (whose brick railroad station survives) and into the Oxford County towns of Hebron and Buckfield. The line ran into financial difficulty soon after it was begun and in 1849 was mortgaged to Maine business promoter and politician F. O. J. Smith, who took complete control in 1851. The line remained the focus of construction delays and property lawsuits even after its reorganization as the Portland and Oxford Central Railroad in 1857; by 1873 its everpresent indebtedness resulted in complete financial ruin. The track itself had reached Canton village in early 1870.

In 1874 a new charter was approved establishing the "Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad" which ran along the Maine Central from Auburn to Mechanic Falls, then over the former Portland and Oxford Central tracks to Canton. With necessary improvements, its first train ran to Canton in July of 1878. By 1889, the line had been extended to "Gilbertville" near the Androscoggin River; a year later industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm and his associates formed the Portland and Rumford Falls Railroad, purchased all of the Buckfield branch line, and extended track north, reaching Rumford by August of 1892. With the construction of a railroad to the Rangeley Lakes area from Rumford in 1894, some of the most remote parts of the county were within easy reach of tourists, sportsmen, and lumber enthusiasts. The lease of these numerous lines to the Maine Central Railroad in 1907 allowed a rapid modernization process, one which caused the abandonment of the Canton-to-Hebron route in favor of a connection from "Gilbertville" to Lewiston via Livermore Falls and Leeds Junction.

Other railroad-associated structures extant in the county are located at Paris (P-21), Hebron (H-17), and Gilead (G-3).



C-4. CANTON GRANGE HALL

1897. Route 108

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH (Canton Historical Society)

1855, 1879.

Organized in 1875, Canton Grange developed around the town's numerous farm operations, most of which have now disappeared. In 1897, on a site near the village railroad station, this hip-roofed two-story structure was erected for the use of its members. Little changed over the years, the Grange Hall is an anchor in this vastly changed village center.

Next door is the former Universalist Church (1855, remodeled 1879), a Greek

Revival building with an inset entrance flanked by pairs of wooden columns. Like the Fryeburg Congregational Church (see F-20), which it mirrors in form, the Canton church has a pedimented gable end, massive paneled corner pilasters, and a wide entablature. The church was remodeled in 1879, at which time the Victorian bell tower at the northeast corner of the roof was added. With the decline in population during the twentieth century, the church was abandoned and is now used for meeting and exhibit space by the Canton Historical Society.



C-5. PULSIFER HOUSE

ca. 1820. Route 140 east of Route 108 at Canton Village

This L-shaped house with "quarter-hip" roof is important as a rare survivor from the earliest years of Canton Village's development as an industrial and commercial center. As an example of Federal period domestic architecture, the house ranks well with similar structures extant in the county. While some changes in fenestration have taken place, the two-story residence retains its massive center chimney and sidelighted entrance door, the latter probably added in the 1840s.

Next door is the Lyman Ellis House (ca. 1890), one of the finest Queen Anne style structures in the village.

C-6. MCCOLLISTER FARMSTEAD

1872. Canton Point Road

The focal point of this nineteenth century rural farmstead is its massive Greek Revival main house, a two-and-a-half story brick structure which is probably the most architecturally distinctive of its type in eastern Oxford County. Constructed in 1872 by Richard McCollister, a successful local farmer, the house displays

corner and wall pilasters which create the impression of recessed wall panels. The six-over-six paned sash feature granite window heads and sills, and the center-bay entrance has a double door capped in stone.

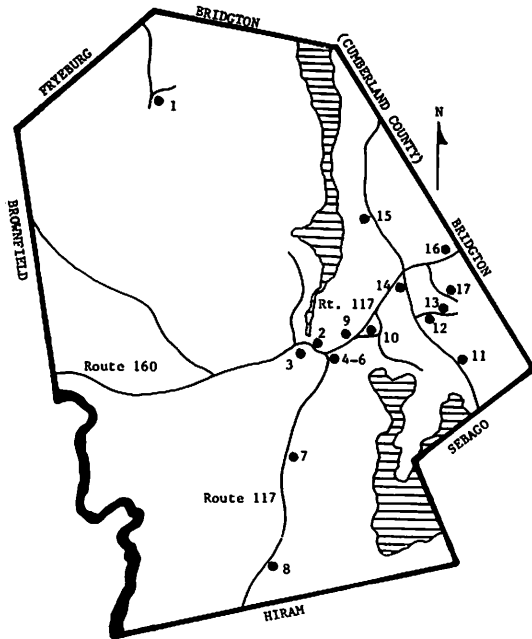


Further east on the Canton Point Road is the Bradbury Memorial Chapel, a shingle-covered church built in 1908 displaying round-arch stained-glass windows and pyramidal-roofed corner tower. Originally planned as a Universalist church, the structure was named in honor of Albion Bradbury, a Canton Point resident who left land and money towards its construction. In the general vicinity are several Capes dating from the first half of the nineteenth century.



Bradbury Memorial Chapel

DENMARK



INTRODUCTION

Located on the eastern border of the southern part of Oxford County, the town of Denmark was formed from a section of Brownfield, from a parcel called "Pleasant Mountain Gore" consisting of nine thousand acres granted to Fryeburg Academy, and from a tract one mile square called "Foster's Grant." The first settler was Daniel Boston, a native of Sanford, Maine, who in 1775 built a log house on the eastern bank of the Saco, between the River and the "Boston Hills," as they were later to be called. In 1784 he loaded all his belongings onto a raft and, losing "all his kettles and crockery," floated down the Saco to a more fertile location in Hiram. Other men with their families arrived in Denmark at the close of the American Revolution; among these were Isaac Berry of Middleton, Massachusetts, Jedediah Long and Ichabod Warren of Berwick, and Ezra Stiles of Brownfield.

In the town's petition for incorporation, the request was made to name it "Denmark," though whether this was to honor the country by the same name is questionable. In any case, even before incorporation was approved on February 20, 1807, a cluster of homes and several mills were already in existence at present-day Denmark Village.

Like its neighboring towns, Denmark has had an economy largely based on

agriculture, though lumbering and small woods-related specialty mills have played an important part. Tourism also had an effect on Denmark's nineteenth century history, resulting in the construction of several large summer hotels atop Pleasant Mountain. The Bridgton and Saco River Railroad (1883-1941) traversed the town just east of the Sebago Road, and its "Perley's Mills Station" was located close to the site of early settler Isaac Berry's saw mill.

Denmark has had its share of notable citizens, three of which deserve special mention. Rufus Porter, itinerant painter, inventor, and journalist, spent part of his adolescence (1804-07) in Denmark, making "water wheels, windmills, and lathes." Hazen Pingree, born here in 1840, went on to distinguish himself as mayor of Detroit and governor of Michigan. And Rufus Ingalls, son of early mill owner Cyrus Ingalls, went from this small town to become quartermaster general of the Union Army during the Civil War.

The town of Denmark contains a particularly fine group of early federal style residences, as well as some of the most interesting "connected" buildings extant in the county. The disastrous fire of October 1947, which raged through much of the adjacent town of Brownfield, burned a four hundred acre section of Denmark, but fortunately destroyed no buildings. Though no historical society exists here, a short but valuable town history was produced at the time of the American Bicentennial observance.

The town's major social centers have developed at East Denmark, near the line with Bridgton, and at Denmark Village, also known as "Denmark Corner," located near the center of town at the outlet of Moose Pond. The population stood at 904 people in 1880. One hundred years later it had dropped to 672.

D-1. "MOUNTAIN AQUA" (Warren House)

ca. 1885-90. Warren Road south of Route 302

The Warren House or "Mountain Aqua," as it was called during its years as the base station for the hotel atop Pleasant Mountain, is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. At the turn-of-the-century, stages and wagons carried guests and supplies between this colorful late Victorian house and the nearby summit hotel.

The area at the western base of Pleasant Mountain was settled quite early in the nineteenth century, the Warrens being among these early settlers. In 1845, Caleb Warren built the first guest house atop the 2,200 foot mountain. Five years later, Joseph F. Sargent purchased the structure, converted it into a "bowling alley," and built a two-story hotel "of matched board construction" which stood until consumed by fire in 1860. Under Charles E. Gibbs' ownership, the "Pleasant Mountain House," a two-and-a-half-storied vernacular structure with open verandas, was raised in 1873. The "Mountain Aqua" was built by the Warren family several years later and took in guests before and after a new hotel company was organized in 1900. The summit hotel ceased operations around 1903 and was torn down in 1908.



The Warren House has a particularly complete range of Queen Anne design characteristics, including a variety of window shapes, roof forms, and wall sheathings, the latter most evidenced by bands of patterned shingles. The asymmetrically-arranged structure is capped with ornamental wrought-iron roof cresting. Though many houses in this style remain in the county, the "Mountain Aqua" is one of the most convincing and well-preserved examples of its type.



D-2. E. A. BOOTHBY HOUSE

ca. 1870. Route 160 at Denmark Village

This essentially unaltered mansard-roofed house was most likely built just after the Civil War and is one of the county's most significant examples of the Second

Empire or Mansard style. Occupying a site overlooking the western approach to "Denmark Corner," the house is distinguished by bracketed eaves, a hooded double-doored entry, low-pitched gable dormers, and elaborated window lintels. The substantial main block has two interior chimneys and a central-hall-plan. A two-story ell with open porch and large dormers containing pairs of windows framed together stands between the larger main portion and a connected stable. Well-maintained since the time of its construction, the Boothby house is a strong architectural presence in this small, southern Oxford County village.

D-3. DENMARK VILLAGE BUILDINGS

Route 160

While the ravages of time and fire have taken their toll on Denmark's earliest village buildings near the outlet of Moose Pond, there are a few whose character has not been compromised and which reflect the town's late nineteenth century prosperity and architectural variety.



Odd Fellows Hall

A short distance east of the Moose Pond Dam (built in 1941 on the site of Cyrus Ingalls' 1792 dam and saw mill) stands the hip-roofed, late nineteenth century L.A. Ingalls House. Its clapboarded facade undulates in a variety of gables, dormers, and building set-backs. Across the street, the two-and-a-half-story Odd Fellows Hall (1884) is in keeping with other fraternal halls built at the time. In this case, however, to what is basically a plain, vernacular building, were added large paired brackets under the eaves and within the triangular pediment, as well as smaller versions on the window heads. In keeping with these Italianate influences, a double round-arch window graces the center of the pediment. Unfortunately, the

building's fire escape has been placed on the facade, marring an otherwise unaltered structure. About halfway between the Odd Fellows Hall and "Denmark Corner" is the Denmark Town House, a story-and-a-half vernacular structure with Greek Revival trim. It has very tall multi-paned windows on its three-bay gabled facade, which faces the street. The building may be the "Old School House" shown on the village map of 1880.

Returning to Moose Brook (which empties into the Saco River some seven miles from this point), on the western side of the stream and on the southern side of the street (Route 160) is the former Denmark Village Post Office, a plain, clapboarded two-and-a-half-story structure with simple Greek Revival trim and an unusually high attic window. A century ago this structure was recorded as "Potter and Ordway's Clothing Factory." Among other items offered by the same firm were doors, sash, blinds, and undertaking services. Across the street, the G. W. Gray House, a mid-nineteenth century Cape, exhibits extensive ells, a barn with tall cupola, and a wide variety of Victorian decorative elements. The majority of the village's remaining domestic architecture is of the Greek Revival side-hall plan, and several interesting, though somewhat altered, examples still survive.



D-4. "INGALLS HOMESTEAD" (Cyrus Ingalls House)

ca. 1794 and later. Junction of Routes 160 and 117 at Denmark Village

Undoubtedly the most imposing house in the town of Denmark, the "Ingalls Homestead" stands in an equally-important location fronting on the intersection of three major roads leading into what was once called "Denmark Corner," though the immediate area is now considered simply "Denmark Village." One of the many "connected" or "extended" structures in the town, and certainly the most elaborate example within the village, the property was long the home of one

branch of the Ingalls family, including its first owner and town founder, Cyrus Ingalls.

A native of Andover, Massachusetts, and a carpenter by trade, Cyrus Ingalls built the first saw and grist mills in Denmark on nearby Moose Brook; before incorporation in 1807, Denmark consisted of Brownfield as its western half and "Pleasant Mountain Gore" as most of its eastern part. Ingalls was, in addition, Denmark's first justice of the peace and a town official much of his adult life. During the movement to separate Maine from Massachusetts, Ingalls was Denmark's delegate to the convention in Portland, in 1819, to frame the first state constitution. Soon thereafter, he was the town's first representative to the state legislature, held in Portland in 1821 and 1823. Among his sons were Cyrus, Jr., who inherited the Denmark Corner property in 1832, and Rufus, who was quartermaster general of the Union Army during the Civil War and a close friend of U. S. Grant.

The original portion of the Ingalls house, a small story-and-a-half Cape, is presently an ell to the right of the main house. The gable-roofed two-and-a-half story block is from the Federal period, but was later reworked in a Greek Revival motif. Remnants of murals in the style of Rufus Porter (who lived in Denmark during his youth) on the second story indicate that it may once have been a hall or ballroom. The Ingalls homestead served at various times as a stopping place for stages and as a well-known tavern. The Greek Revival treatment of the main block, with its Doric portico, has a spacious, formal quality not often seen on Greek Revival buildings elsewhere in Oxford County, but evident in several houses erected in nearby Bridgton.

D-5. INGALLS-CAMPBELL HOUSE

ca. 1800-1810. Junction of Routes 160 and 117 at Denmark Village

This three-bay, center-chimneyed, frame house covered with narrow clapboards has a particularly fine front doorway with framing pilasters and transom light. It holds the corner formed by the intersection of Route 117 from the east with its continuation as the Hiram Road to the south.

The house's most notable owner was Jonathan B. Ingalls, son of Cyrus Ingalls, who built the "extended" structure across the road. Jonathan Ingalls established himself in Denmark Village around 1830 as a blacksmith and a dealer in livestock. Besides serving as a town official, he was, for four years, a deputy sheriff in Oxford County before moving to Otisfield in 1861. There, he served an additional twelve years in a similar position for Cumberland County (Otisfield became part of Oxford County in 1978).

In its well-preserved condition, with its ells, attached barn, and fenced side courtyard intact, this early Denmark residence of the Federal period conveys the massing and overall form of much earlier houses, by this time succeeded by lighter, more elegant building forms along the coast. Notwithstanding, the Ingalls-Campbell House is a rare and important survivor from the town's formative years.



A short distance west, a large Civil War monument, erected in 1913, holds a prominent site in the nearby intersection.



D-6. "COMMUNITY HOUSE" (Universalist Church-Grange Hall)
ca. 1836, 1903. Route 117 at Denmark Village

Of importance more for its many associations with the Denmark community than for its present physical appearance, this broad-gabled, story-and-a-half frame structure gives little indication of its former architectural richness. Built originally around 1836 as a Universalist Church, the building once displayed a portico with a narrow entablature supported by four Doric columns. Above a wide, flush-boarded pediment rose a high, square tower base which in turn supported a

square belfry with tall, rectangular openings framed in simple Greek Revival moldings. The effect, considering the building's relatively isolated location and early date, must have been most impressive.

After years of declining membership, the Universalists sold the structure in 1903 to the local grange ("Crystal Spring Grange," organized in 1875), and it was probably during this exchange that the tower and portico were removed, and a stage constructed where the altar had formerly been. When the grange disbanded in 1930, the structure became the property of the local Congregationalists, who used the building for various group functions until 1971. Since that time, the structure has been privately owned and today is used merely for storage.

To the north of the former church stands a broad-gabled, three-and-a-half-story, wood frame commercial building (ca. 1870) which also houses the local Masonic Hall. Its asymmetrical facade with narrow Greek Revival moldings shows evidence of many alterations.

D-7. PINGREE-MORRIS HOUSE

ca. 1860 and later. Route 117 south of Denmark Village

Displaying a number of additions that have been made since this steeply-gabled story-and-a-half connected structure was first raised, the Pingree-Morris House is nevertheless an interesting illustration of a farm home that has expanded with several generations of use. Probably the most interesting feature of the rambling structure is its variation on the typical five-bay single story facades usually seen on Capes; in this particular example, the house's main entrance is placed in a narrow gabled projecting pavilion of two stories. Adding further to this semi-formal treatment is a small pediment that appears above the pavilion's second story window. The well-maintained condition and picturesque hillside location of this vernacular Greek Revival farmstead make it especially appealing.

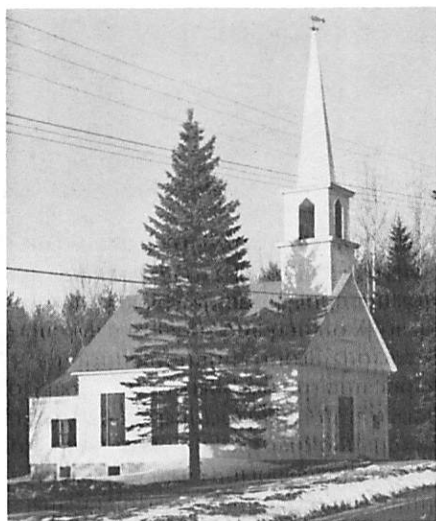
Further north, on the same side of the highway, is the Thomas Pingree House (ca. 1802, 1816), a much-rebuilt high-posted Cape with small second story "eyebrow" windows tucked under the facade wall eaves. Moving to Denmark in 1800, Thomas Pingree had a small house, possibly the present ell, ready to move his family into by March 1802. All fourteen of his children grew up here, reason enough for constructing the more northerly portion several years later. One of Thomas' sons, William Pingree, was a successful merchant in Denmark Village, and a representative in the Maine legislature in 1847 and 1848. Hazen Pingree, the grandson of Thomas' brother, Parker Pingree, was born just east of the Thomas Pingree house in 1840; he later became mayor of Detroit and governor of Michigan.

D-8. OSGOOD-BEAN HOUSE

ca. 1815-20. Route 117 south of Denmark Village

This central-chimneyed, Federal period, two-and-a-half story house with two story ell is all that remains of an extensive farm cleared by "Captain" Joshua Osgood, a Fryeburg native, who inherited a substantial estate (consisting mostly of valuable timber lands) in the town of Denmark. Moving to this hillside location, Osgood took up farming, purchased mills at Denmark Corner from Cyrus Ingalls (see D-4), and engaged in an extensive lumber business. In 1835 he sold his real estate in Denmark to Ellis B. Usher of Hollis, for the then-handsome sum of \$50,000. Removing to Portland, Osgood soon gained a reputation as a successful businessman; he was president of the Canal Bank for more than a quarter of a century.

Soon after 1835, the Osgood House was acquired by William Bean, a farmer and lumberman who later served three terms in the state legislature. The substantial residence retains an interesting transomed doorway and windows of twelve-over-twelve paned sash.

**D-9. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

1878 and earlier. Route 117 at Denmark Village

The picturesque Denmark Congregational Church is actually the 1878-79 remodeling of a much earlier "chapel" which was built ca. 1835 under the supervision of local builder Joshua Osgood. The Congregational Society in

Denmark was organized on July 5, 1829 in the Pingree-Davis House (see D-15), about a mile southeast of the present church.

During the remodeling, the old structure was raised, the front and rear walls were extended (thus providing room for a new vestibule and chancel), and the square belfry with its pointed-arch openings and tall spire was added. Indicating how slowly the membership grew in the late nineteenth century (and perhaps how costly the 1878 rebuilding was) is the fact that a bell was not purchased and installed until April of 1901. The church celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1904 by raising a long, gable-roofed horse shed just west of the church; this structure was torn down in 1927, a victim of the increasing popularity of the automobile.

Simple in plan and austere in appearance, the Congregational Church is quite similar to other nineteenth century churches standing in the towns of Sumner, West Paris, and Rumford. Its well-preserved exterior displays tall, multi-paned windows, simple doorways with flat moldings, and a closed pedimented gable.

A short distance east of the church is the Wales-Kerr House, an early nineteenth century, center-chimneyed, five-bay, Colonial style house of some architectural distinction.



D-10. JEWETT-HEAD HOUSE

1784, ca. 1790s. Route 117 at Head's Corner

A short distance east of Denmark Village, at a location long known as "Head's Corner" for the numerous members of that family that have resided there, stands this well-preserved and historically-important transitional Federal style two-and-a-half story house. Like many of the area's earliest homes, the Jewett-Head House reflects changes that took place as the settlement matured and the first-settled families became more prosperous. Ephraim Jewett came to Denmark from Ipswich, Massachusetts, in the late eighteenth century and built the present

one-story ell in 1784. Several years later, in response to the needs of a growing family, Jewett constructed the large Colonial/Federal style section with its massive center chimney and fine semi-elliptical fan doorway.

Indicating the social position which Jewett had early attained, his neighbors elected the former Revolutionary War veteran as moderator of the first town meeting in 1807. Jewett's four sons also settled nearby on farms carved from the original homestead. After the patriarch's death, the Head family, having moved in 1804 from Pembroke, New Hampshire, to Denmark, purchased the original farm complex. For several generations after this, the Heads and Jewetts farmed side-by-side in this fertile upland location.

Immediately across the highway and south of the Jewett-Head House, the vernacular, mid-nineteenth century Sanborn Farmstead includes one of the largest wooden barns still extant in the county.



D-11. ISAAC BERRY HOUSE

ca. 1800. Sebago Road

Around 1786-88, Isaac Berry came from Middleton, Massachusetts, to Maine and began clearing a farm in the eastern part of present-day Denmark, in a 2,000 acre section of "Pleasant Mountain Gore" that had been granted to Asahel Foster of Bridgton. Though Foster didn't settle in Denmark, he had Samuel Titcomb survey his land holdings and immediately began the sale of them, Isaac Berry being one of the first to acquire property here. The Federal style residence Berry raised around 1800 still stands alongside the "Sebago Road," an early north-south highway in the settlement.

Berry and a neighbor, Enoch Perley of South Bridgton, built a saw mill soon after 1790 on the brook that flows out of nearby Perley Pond, and in so doing,

encouraged the further development of the easternmost half of the town. Though he cannot claim the distinction of being the first settler in Denmark (that honor is held by Daniel Boston, who moved into the western part of the town near the Saco River sometime around 1775, but found "the land too frosty for the raising of corn," and soon moved away), Isaac Berry may be rightly considered one of the most influential town founders.



D-12. FESSENDEN FARMSTEAD

ca. 1835-40. Fessenden Hill Road

The primary significance of this upland farm is its particularly distinctive series of structural "set-backs," beginning with an ell (possibly the oldest portion of the building) off the main house (a five-bay, story-and-a-half, Greek Revival Cape), and then continuing with three increasingly large, gable-roofed structures, the last two of which may be properly considered barns. The theory which holds that the county's connected farmsteads developed as eighteenth century building components combined under nineteenth century cultural and economic influences is evidenced in this interesting cluster of farm structures, possibly better than anywhere else in the county. The Fessenden Farmstead is typical of many agriculturally-oriented vernacular connected structures of the mid-nineteenth century, in that all of the "styled" decoration (in this case, an entablatured doorway, enframed windows, and corner pilasters in a Greek Revival mode) is focused on the main house, with little or no architectural embellishment made to the more functional connections. The Fessenden Farmstead's origins may be traced to the 1780s, though little from that time probably remains within the present structure.



D-13. ELIAS BERRY HOUSE

ca. 1795. Fessenden Hill Road

Elias Berry, son of Isaac Berry, another early Denmark settler (see D-11), began a clearing in 1792 on what was early called "Berry's Hill" (now "Fessenden Hill"), near the town's eastern border with Bridgton. In February of 1794 he left Andover, Massachusetts, with a yoke of oxen and sled, on which were all his household goods in addition to his wife and three children; eight days passed before he finally reached "Pleasant Mountain Gore" and his hilltop property, which he began "improving" as soon as a temporary log shelter could be built.

The five-bay central-chimneyed house Berry constructed about 1795 is considered to be the first two-story house erected in Denmark. In it was a hall where the early settlers assembled for various celebrations and dances. Here, "flagging spirits were stimulated by West India rum and Holland gin for the male persuasion, and mild toddy for the women." Berry was one of the principal businessmen in town for many years, especially in lumbering operations, and held important offices in town until old age. He was also chosen representative to the "Great and General Court" in Boston in 1817 and 1819 and, before his death in 1850, served in the Maine legislature.

In 1870 the town of Denmark voted to buy the Berry House for use as a "town farm" and paid for the purchase with bonds due the town from the state as reimbursement for expenses incurred during the Civil War. Standing today with a smaller central chimney and minus its twelve-over-eight-paned windows, the Elias Berry House nevertheless represents a historically-rich survival from Denmark's earliest days.



D-14. JAMES BECK STORE

ca. 1865-1875. Route 117 and Sebago Road at East Denmark

The Beck Store, shown in the county *Atlas* of 1880 as "C. E. Whitton Store and Post Office," is one of the many modestly designed vernacular structures that have played an important role in the social and economic history of Oxford County. Though it stands today in a very precarious condition warranting sensitive and immediate attention, the now-weathered building still conveys a sense of rural adaptability to an important crossroad's site. Photographic evidence indicates that as late as ca. 1915, this commercial building was almost twice its present size, with a barn attached to the rear wall of the present extended structure, and a two-story ell running parallel to the Denmark Village road (to the right of the facade). The entire building was formerly surrounded by a very narrow, open porch, a small segment of which remains on the building's three-bay facade. Long the site of the East Denmark Post Office, the Beck Store is a historically significant representative of the many unpretentious country stores that once dotted the Maine landscape.

Across Route 117, on the western corner of its intersection with the Hio Ridge Road, is the Jordan House, an early nineteenth century Cape that remains in well-preserved condition.

D-15. LOWELL HOUSE

ca. 1825-30. Hio Ridge Road

Perhaps the best-preserved of the many early nineteenth century Capes in the eastern half of Denmark, the Lowell House is also a striking example of "connected" architecture, consisting of a main story-and-a-half, five-bay house, a smaller one-story ell, a three-bay shed or carriage house, and a large, unorna-



mented barn. The double-chimneyed Cape has rather low eaves and particularly fine proportions.

A short distance away is the Lowell Cemetery, the oldest of the twenty-five burial grounds in Denmark. Its earliest gravestone is dated 1812.

In addition to the Lowell House and several other early-to-mid-nineteenth century Capes in the immediate area, the Pingree-Davis House (ca. 1810) on the "Bushrow" or Berry Hill Road, south of the Jewett-Head House (see D-10), is a Federal period Cape with numerous dependencies. It was here, in 1829, that the Congregational Church Society of Denmark was formed.

D-16. WENTWORTH FARMSTEAD

ca. 1820-30, and later. Route 117

This unusually complete connected farmstead is one of the county's best examples of a building form that became widely popular in northern New England during the mid-nineteenth century and, in Oxford County, especially after 1860. Like many farms run by successive generations of the same family, however, the Wentworth Farmstead shows the additions and alterations that took place over a number of years as diversified-crop farming and home industry production took place under the same roof. The main block and easternmost unit of the Wentworth Farmstead probably dates from the 1830s; it displays characteristics that are basically Federal in nature, most notably the five-bay facade arrangement and a centrally-located entrance door with louvered fan and sidelights. The present ell, which is smaller in scale but heavier in massing than the more sophisticated eastern section, is no doubt an earlier part of the structure. Its massive chimney and present window arrangement seem to indicate that it might have begun as a symmetrically arranged five-bay house. With its large attached



barn and numerous outbuildings, the Wentworth Farmstead demonstrates the evolutionary process of a typical Maine farm.

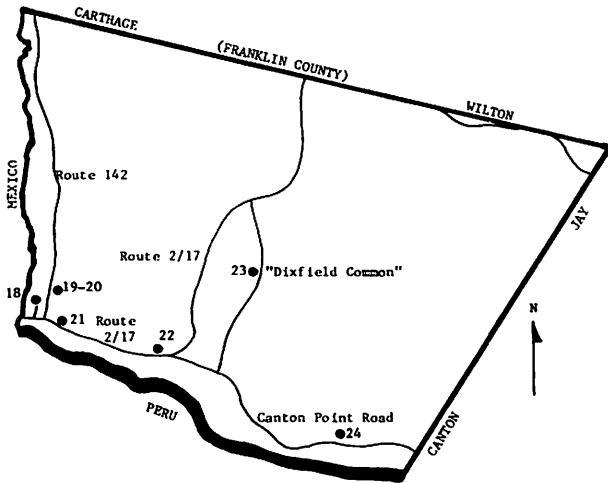
D-17. E. P. INGALLS HOUSE

1783, ca. 1790s. Off Route 117

Like the Jewett-Head House at "Head's Corner" (see D-10), the E. P. Ingalls House is notable for retaining the first home of one of Denmark's earliest settlers as an ell to the present house, a well-scaled, five-bay, early Federal period structure. For several generations a working farm, the property also supported an active apple production, and countless barrels of the produce were once packed here for shipment to Europe. Displaying a fine Federal style fan-doorway with sidelights, and multi-paned windows on its clapboard-covered walls, the Ingalls House represents, as well as any county structure can, the progressive architectural adaptability of an early-settled family.

Just east of the E. P. Ingalls House, the Jack-Doyle House is considered by many to be Denmark's oldest building, though its original single-story framework is now imbedded within a larger and later remodeling. Both the Ingalls and Jack-Doyle houses were originally reached by the Fessenden Hill Road, and thus the 1858 and 1880 maps of the town show them without the present north-south connection to Route 117.

DIXFIELD



INTRODUCTION

Originally referred to as "Androscoggin Purchase, Township Number 1," Dixfield was secured by twenty-seven men from Worcester County, Massachusetts, in 1789. The township, of some thirty-thousand acres, stretched along the north side of the Androscoggin River and included the present towns of Dixfield and Mexico. Three brothers of Sutton, Massachusetts, Peter, Ebenezer, and Jonathan Holman, are regarded as the town's first settlers in 1792; within a few years, the growing community took on the name "Holmantown," in honor of their strong influence in its development. By 1800, thirty-three families had established residence; three years later, that part of the township east of Webb's River was incorporated as "Dixfield," in honor of Dr. Elijah Dix, a prominent early proprietor who held ownership of more land in the township than anyone else. Dix's promise of an extensive library of books, should the town be named for him, resulted in local officials receiving a crate of mostly worthless tracts many years later. Present-day Mexico continued as "Holmantown" until its own incorporation in 1818.

Though agriculture provided for self-sufficiency in outlying areas of Dixfield, water-powered industry took root at Dixfield Village and East Dixfield Village very early in the nineteenth century. By mid-century, manufacturing of such products as hay rakes, wool, and lumber turned Dixfield Village into one of the county's most prosperous commercial centers. During the second half of the nineteenth century, substantial brick buildings along Dixfield Village's Main Street impressed travelers who stayed at any of the numerous hotels and boarding houses operating

at this busy crossroads site. In 1869, local agricultural production centered on a newly-opened fairgrounds on the "Weld Street Plains," north of Dixfield Village; in 1883, publication began of the weekly *Dixfield Citizen*; and in 1886, the Village was one of the first places in Oxford County to have its houses electrified.

In the 1890s, when the Portland and Rumford Falls Railroad reached West Peru, and a bridge was built across the Androscoggin to Dixfield, the production of spools, toothpicks, and wooden novelties, as well as the establishment of a corn cannery and several dairy farms, enabled the town to maintain a certain economic stability. Like many surrounding towns, however, Dixfield saw the post-Depression decline of farming, though various wood industries have continued as important economic mainstays.

The significant architecture of Dixfield resembles that of surrounding county towns, though an obvious need exists for thoughtful planning and careful preservation of important historic resources that remain. With such plans underway, the unfortunate events symbolized by the recent demolition of the Harlow Block, a major county landmark, may in the future be prevented. The Dixfield Historical Society, founded in 1975, has focused attention on the town's rich heritage through programs and research activities.

Dixfield's 1980 census recorded nearly 2,400 people, while a century ago, only 913 residents were listed.



D-18. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ("Union Church")

1828-29, ca. 1900. High Street

A village landmark that rises above surrounding structures from an elevated site,

the Congregational Church reflects an eclectic blend of several styles, though its basic Federal style form has been retained. A gable-roofed building with projecting pavilion and tall square tower, the church displays Gothic pointed-arch windows and a pedimented entrance portico supported by pairs of Ionic columns (the original facade arrangement called for a pair of doorways located to each side of the present entry). Among the modifications to the church's interior carried out over the years have been the removal of the rear balcony and organ loft, the elimination of the pew doors, and the installation of stained-glass memorial windows, all carried out about 1900 when the structure was used by a Universalist congregation. The interior currently reflects a strong Greek Revival influence. The integrity of this early county church has suffered recently with the application of siding meant to resemble clapboards; this is especially apparent at the belfry level where original balustrades of open spindlework and inset panels with wooden corner spirelets have now been replaced by boxy enclosures of this same material.



D-19. BARNARD HOUSE ("1820 House")

ca. 1820. Weld Street (Route 142)

CHASE HOUSE

ca. 1825 and later.

Dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, these two village houses illustrate two of the most common building forms for domestic architecture in Oxford County during the Federal period. Standing on the west side of Weld Street (once known as "School Street"), the Barnard House is a clapboard-covered Cape with large center chimney and five-bayed facade. Attached to its north wall is a later addition of two stories, and beyond this is a stable with its gable-to-the-street. Owned by the same family since its construction, the Barnard

House has a broken-transom light doorway which was probably added in later years.



Chase House

Across the street is the hip-roofed Chase House which features a symmetrical facade of five bays and a one-room-deep plan. Constructed around 1825, the house has chimneys set back from the roof ridge, a typical late Federal arrangement also seen on gable-roofed forms. The present bay window on the south wall and the entry porch supported by tall, square posts were added around the turn-of-the-century.

North of the Barnard and Chase houses are a good selection of residences built between 1870 and 1920, many of which were constructed after the railroad had reached nearby West Peru in 1892. Of particular interest are the several houses displaying influences from the Stick, Queen Anne, and Bungalow styles.

D-20. DIXFIELD MARBLE WORKS BUILDING

ca. 1902. Weld Street (Route 142)

This gambrel-roofed vernacular structure is a remarkably unaltered survivor from the village's turn-of-the-century era of commercial prosperity. Constructed by two Holt brothers who ran both an engraving shop and monument works here, the building retains its original fenestration, wall sheathing, and signage. The three double-doored openings on the south gable end, and the accompanying system for lowering the heavy blocks of stone, are of particular interest. Standing in a community where many of the most significant nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and industrial structures have been badly scarred by modern alterations, the Marble Works Building remains as an important visual landmark in Dixfield's business history.



Next to the Marble Works is the Holt House, an unusual structure with gambrel roof and inset porch. Its first story constructed of brick, the Holt residence was once owned by an operator of the adjacent business. Further north on Weld Street is the former Dixfield Academy, a massive brick school constructed in 1883 as both a grammar and high school. In use until 1910, the structure, now minus its belfry centered atop the roof, has been converted to residential purposes.

D-21. MAIN STREET

Route 2

In the early 1790s, much of present-day Dixfield Village was secured by Dr. Elijah Dix of Sutton, Massachusetts. One of the original proprietors of "Holmantown" upon its purchase in 1789, Dix received fifteen of the original sixty "rights," each consisting of some four to five hundred acres. Previous to 1800, Dix constructed a log house near the current junction of Routes 2 and 142; in 1803-04 he built saw and grist mills on the nearby Webb's River and, soon after, a frame house that was the first in the village. During the next half century, the construction of additional mills brought about a rapid increase in population, resulting in the development of the Main Street area as the village's commercial and residential heart. Today, a handful of important structures representative of Dixfield Village's evolution as an important county community stand along both sides of this heavily traveled route.

Holding the southwestern end of the street is the Tuscan Lodge Hall, a three-and-a-half story frame structure built in 1903 as a 400 seat opera house and meeting place for the local Odd Fellows. The site of many public gatherings over the years, the massive building, now adapted to other uses, has had its first story exterior sheathed in unsympathetic siding. The facade gable end retains bands of textured shingles which curve inward to the attic window. The substantial house

next door, constructed in the Queen Anne style in the 1890s and enlarged and remodeled in this century, originally functioned as a hostelry under the names "Androscoggin Hotel" and later, "Dixfield House." To the east is a vernacular Italianate two-and-a-half story house (ca. 1865) articulated with bay windows, a bracketed cornice, and a double-doored entry. The side-hall Greek Revival house beyond may date to the 1840s; its three-bayed facade exhibits an inset doorway framed in block moldings, and a pedimented gable end sheathed in flush boarding. The two commercial buildings to the east, both obviously influenced by the Greek Revival style, were constructed just previous to the Civil War. That of brick, built by Elias Richardson as a store, retains its original window openings with granite lintels and sills. In the nineteenth century, the second floor was occupied by the law office of "Richardson and Bolster."



Cox-Fish House (ca. 1900)

One of Main Street's most interesting late Federal style residences lies further east. Begun around 1800 when a small Cape, now embedded in the rear ell, was constructed, the Cox-Fish House was enlarged around 1830 when a plain but modestly elegant version of more sophisticated coastal houses of the period was built facing the street. This later portion is distinguished by tall end-wall chimneys, original six-over-six paned sash, and an entablatured and sidelighted entrance doorway now sheltered by a Victorian period porch with bracketed posts. The rear ell was enlarged to its present proportions around the turn-of-the-century. The vernacular store next door (similar to one further down the street) was operated in the 1880s by Thomas Jefferson Cox, who lived in the Cox-Fish House.

Beyond several wood frame commercial structures and two vernacular Colonial Revival houses is the former Congregational Chapel (1901), originally built by the local Free Will Baptists and Methodists, and now occupied by the Dixfield Historical Society. Next door is the Social Building, built around 1850 by

Eli Edmunds, who operated a blacksmith shop in the structure for nearly seventy years.

On a triangular lot where Route 2 leaves Main Street is the Wheeler-Gates House, originally built in 1827 by Joseph Wheeler and enlarged in 1870-72 by George G. Gates. Its pedimented facade has a two-story porch and side-hall plan of Greek Revival influence. A large New England barn once stood at the eastern end of the multi-unit structure.



Kidder-Frost House

Several houses on the north side of Main Street, between Hall Hill Road and Third Street, are of architectural interest. West of the Stowell-Russell House, a late Queen Anne style residence built in 1907-08, is the Federal Kidder-Frost House, erected in 1825 by builder Lyman Eustis. Its well-preserved exterior is distinguished by multi-paned windows, tall end chimneys, and a sophisticated entrance doorway with sidelights, entablature, and framing pilasters. The flush-boarded, gable-end pediments are broken by Gothic pointed-arch windows with louvered shutters, possibly added in the 1840s. Further west are two center-chimneyed Capes whose overall appearance is remarkably similar. They were both constructed between 1820 and 1830. The W. W. Wait House of 1847 combines an earlier Cape form with a Greek Revival porch supported by Doric columns. The house is attributed to local builder Hosea Austin. The relatively unaltered Libby House (1827) on the corner of Main and Third streets is important as a typical vernacular county residence of its period. Its asymmetrical plan (which includes an attached stable) reflects construction methods based on practical need rather than architectural styling.

West of the Mt. Sugar Loaf Grange Hall and Dixfield's modern post office is the Ludden Library, a fine brick Colonial Revival structure built in 1939. Similar in form to the South Paris Public Library (see P-13), the hip-roofed building has



Ludden Library

windows set in blind arches, a projecting gabled entry with brick corner quoining, and a doorway crowned with a broken pediment.

Until 1979, the western corner of Routes 2 and 142 was occupied by the brick, mansard-roofed Harlow Block, built in 1878-79 by Elbridge Harlow. A major architectural landmark whose thoughtless destruction points to an alarming lack of preservation planning in Oxford County as a whole, the Harlow Block contained space for stores, a hotel, and "Music Hall," once located on the top floor. Its replacement, placed diagonally to the street, does little to create the "sense of place" so admirably achieved by its now-destroyed predecessor.

To the west is the Edmunds House (ca. 1850), a "Carpenter Gothic" residence displaying gabled window hoods and bargeboard scrollwork beneath the eaves. The side-hall-plan house was, until just recently, fronted by an elaborate wooden fence. Next door stands the Dr. DeFoe House (ca. 1860 and later) whose facade now features multi-paned bay windows and a Neo-Federal doorway, elements added in this century. Part of the stable to the rear is said to be the second framed house constructed at Dixfield Village.

D-22. D. S. MARBLE FARMSTEAD

ca. 1835 and later. Route 2

Architecturally, the D. S. Marble Farmstead represents a once-common type of connected structure built as a response to the needs of an earlier, agrarian society. Its relatively unaltered condition also makes it one of Dixfield's best examples of this particular building form. Built parallel to the road at a site once called "Dixfield Corner," the building displays a massive gable-roofed barn at one end and a two-and-a-half story house at the other. The lines of the house are particularly interesting, in that a later addition to the rear has given it a distinctive "salt-box" shape.



D-23. PETER HOLMAN HOUSE

ca. 1804 and later. Off Route 2

Built by one of three brothers for whom the town was originally named, the Peter Holman House is a foursquare, two-storied, hip-roofed structure with important early links to Dixfield's founding and development. Tradition states that this was one of the first framed houses in the community, but whether or not the structure originally had its present large proportions is not known. In the first half of the nineteenth century, Dixfield Common (also known as "Dixfield Center") prospered as a self-contained village; due to the abundance of water power at Dixfield Village, however, that locality soon became the town's commercial and industrial heart. The Peter Holman House served as a residence, store, and post office during various periods of the nineteenth century, and town meetings were held here until a brick schoolhouse was constructed nearby in 1812. It is assumed that Peter Holman, who first came to "Holmantown" from Sutton, Massachusetts, in the early 1790s, embellished his house with heavy Greek Revival moldings sometime in the 1840s. Still owned by Holman descendants, the house has had its original large chimneys removed, and its first story east wall covered by a modern enclosed porch.

A short distance west of the Holman House are the remains of the second brick schoolhouse built at Dixfield Common, this one dating to 1830-31.

D-24. HOLMAN-LUNT HOUSE

ca. 1820. Canton Point Road

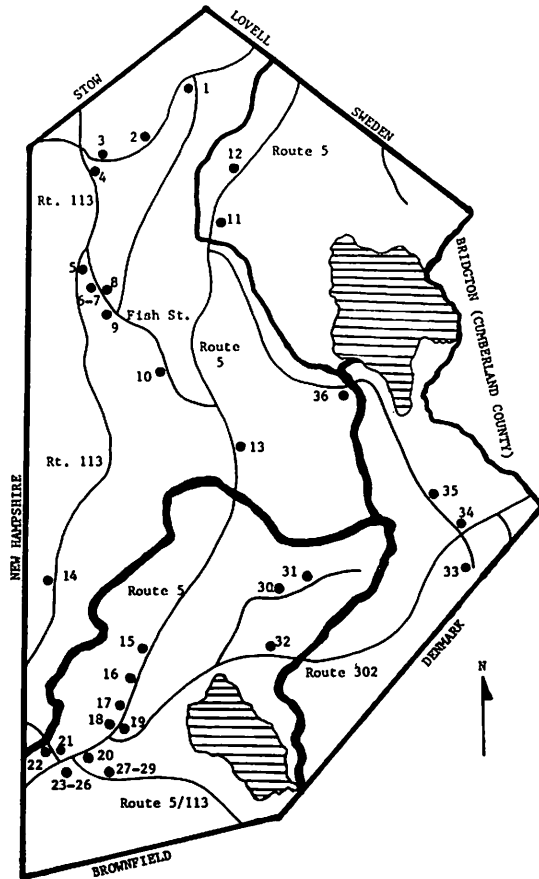
Located in a rural setting in the southeast corner of the town, this substantial center-chimneyed, five-bayed house is important as an early nineteenth century



tavern and stage stop. Though its rear ell and barn have been removed, and its fenestration altered from small paned types to sash of two-over-two panes, the two-and-a-half story structure retains much of its original character. At the center of the first story is a fine sidelighted doorway with entablature and framing pilasters. The first tavern in Dixfield was opened in 1827 by Colonel Samuel Morrill in present-day Dixfield Village; the Holman-Lunt House is thought to have opened its doors to travelers shortly thereafter.

A few miles west, at the edge of the Androscoggin River, is the Federal style Newman-Holland House, a brick Cape with a particularly well-preserved fan doorway. The structure probably dates to around 1825.

FRYEBURG



INTRODUCTION

Fryeburg was visited by coastal New England residents as early as 1642, when Darby Field, the first European to ascend nearby Mount Washington, stopped at the "Pequawket" village to hire Indian guides and reported two hundred inhabitants. Situated in a fertile valley where the Saco River originally flowed thirty-two miles in a great arc before returning to within two miles of its own course, the location was a natural spot for a major Abenaki Indian settlement. The local climate remained relatively undisturbed until 1725, when a party of men from Dunstable, Massachusetts, led by Captain John Lovewell, made a surprise

attack upon the village. During what later became known as "The Battle of Lovewell's Pond," a large number of Indians thought to have been raiding Maine and New Hampshire coastal settlements were killed, along with fifteen of the attackers, including Lovewell. Also killed was Paugus, chief of the Pequawkets and a renowned defender of Indian tribal rights.

The Indian village, which was rapidly abandoned after the 1725 skirmish, stood overlooking the Saco River intervalles on the high bank where Fryeburg Village's Main Street now exists. Though firepits and several "mounds" were reported by the earliest settlers, these were hurriedly investigated and unfortunately removed. Under nineteenth and twentieth century inquiry, the former inhabitants have fared a bit better, though to date no major published work devoted to this particular Indian settlement has appeared.

Much of what is now Fryeburg was granted to General Joseph Frye of Andover, Massachusetts, in 1762, for his service in the expedition against Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in 1745, and for his command at Fort William Henry, on Lake George, in 1757. The first clearing was made in 1758 on a spot originally inside the bounds of Frye's grant, but one which fell within the New Hampshire town of Conway when the state boundaries were settled in 1766. During the winter of 1762-63, John Stevens, Nathaniel Merrill, and Limbo, a black slave, came to Fryeburg from Gorham, Maine, and pastured cattle on the intervalles. The next year, General Frye divided the township into lots of forty acres each and settlement began in earnest. Incorporated in 1777 as the first town in Oxford County (then part of York County) and named for its founder, Fryeburg holds the additional distinction of being the only town in the county to experience a full period of colonization and subsequent development before the American Revolution.

A town whose local economy remains strongly influenced by agricultural production, Fryeburg has also supported a wide variety of small businesses; after the arrival of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad in 1871, the lumber-working industry thrived. Connected to this major advance in transportation was the town's long tradition as a stopping-off point for travelers and tourists. The first tavern, built by "Major" Samuel Osgood in 1775, was the prototype for the celebrated "Oxford House," and still later, for "The Oxford," all of which stood on the same Main Street site. In addition, Fryeburg may lay claim to the first academy (1792) and the first newspaper (1798) in Oxford County, and the first poem ("The Village," by Enoch Lincoln, 1816) written and published in Maine. Fryeburg Village also had in its streets the last horse railroad (1911) in the country.

To name all those who attained distinction in life and at one time resided in Fryeburg is an almost impossible task, there being so many. Among them, however, several are worth brief mention here. Daniel Webster served as head of Fryeburg Academy during its formative period and copied deeds at the Registry to supplement his income; John W. Dana was Governor of Maine from 1847-50, and his father, Judah Dana, won notoriety as the first lawyer in Oxford County; Admiral Robert E. Peary spent long periods of time making precise astronomical observations and exploring the natural curiosities of the local landscape while a

resident of Elm Street; and Clarence E. Mulford, creator of the "Hopalong Cassidy" character, became another on the long list of writers and artists to gain satisfaction from the Fryeburg scene.

Perhaps no street in the county possesses such a wide range of building types and styles as does Main Street in Fryeburg Village. Despite the ravages of fire and insensitive remodelings, buildings dating from the 1760s stand alongside fine examples of all the important nineteenth century styles, with interesting transitional and vernacular structures interspersed among them. Rural Fryeburg provides a sometimes spectacular setting for uncrowded neighborhoods containing structures ranging from Colonial houses to excellent examples of major "connected" farmsteads. Surprisingly, no collective effort has been made to preserve Fryeburg's architectural heritage, though the Fryeburg Historical Society (founded in 1974), in cooperation with the Woman's Library Club, has begun to collect information on the town's most significant structures. Only a few miles from the alarmingly characterless "strips" that have formed along New Hampshire's Route 16 in the North Conway area, Fryeburg desperately needs to plan against the inevitable "visual pollution" that accompanies rampant, uncontrolled growth.

Besides Fryeburg Village, other major building clusters in the town exist at East Fryeburg, Fryeburg Center, Fryeburg Harbor, and North Fryeburg. The population of the town was 1,633 people in 1880. It had climbed to 2,115 by 1980.



F-1. METHODIST CHURCH

1884. McNeil Road at Fryeburg Harbor

Reflecting the practical, self-sufficient attitudes of rural Oxford County residents, this simple wood-frame edifice is an important example of vernacular churches raised in the county from the 1870s to around 1920. The Methodist

Episcopal Church was first organized in Fryeburg in 1828 and occupied quarters in an 1845 structure, now the Paugus Grange building at Fryeburg Village (see F-20). Due to a growing interest in Methodism in the northern part of the town, accompanied by a large reduction in membership at the Village, the former location was abandoned for a new site alongside the old course of the Saco River, across from the "Harbor Road." The gable-roofed story-and-a-half clapboard-sheathed structure built in 1884 displays tall stained-glass windows, a centered, double-doored entry, a triangular gable louver, and an open belfry with pyramidal roof. The century-old building remains in near-original condition today.



Bemis House

At the junction of the McNeil Road with the Harbor Road, the Bemis House (ca. 1830-40) is a fine nineteenth century brick Cape with a high granite foundation and brick end chimneys. Its five-bay facade facing a slow-moving section of the old Saco River (which influenced the naming of this hamlet as a safe "harbor") features a symmetrical arrangement of six-over-six windows and a sidelighted entrance doorway, all capped with broad granite lintels. Just west of the Bemis House, the one-room Harbor Schoolhouse (1849), now used as a seasonal residence, was the last of Fryeburg's "district" schools to remain in operation, closing its doors in 1948.

F-2. "BENNETT HOMESTEAD"

ca. 1860-70. Fryeburg Harbor Road

This extremely long farmstead (six distinct units), set on a level plane at the foot of some of the county's highest mountains, demonstrates how a variety of stylistic elements, as well as necessary additions, may be successfully blended into

an architectural whole. To what began as a very simple high-posted Cape were added such Italianate features as the paired bay windows with small cornice brackets; the bracketed porch posts and round arch window in the ell section also derive from Italianate models. Beyond the house, three narrow, steeply-gabled dormers at the attic level of the carriage shed section hint of the Gothic Revival. The remainder of the structure consists of a vast array of barns and sheds extending both west and north. Now well-preserved with much of its early character intact, the Bennett Homestead stands as a reminder of Fryeburg's nineteenth and twentieth century agricultural prosperity.

F-3. RED MEN'S HALL

ca. 1900. Fryeburg Harbor Road

Fryeburg has maintained a number of secret fraternal organizations, beginning with the establishment of a Masonic Lodge in 1803. Near the end of the nineteenth century, a group of individuals calling themselves the "Tribe of Red Men" organized at Fryeburg Village, and soon many of the male residents of North Fryeburg Village followed suit. Their meeting hall, a long vernacular two-and-a-half-story wood structure facing south on the north side of the road from North Fryeburg to Fryeburg Harbor, stands empty today awaiting a new purpose. Considering the extensive alterations carried out on numerous other public buildings in the town, the Red Men's Hall remains relatively intact and worthy of preservation as part of the unique character of Fryeburg's northernmost village.

West of Red Men's Hall and on the same side of the highway is the mansard-roofed North Fryeburg Post Office and, beyond this, a rambling wood frame commercial structure that probably dates to the 1840s. Both buildings are important remnants of an era of prosperity that existed in this agriculturally-based region during the second half of the nineteenth century.

F-4. LANGDON ANDREWS HOUSE

ca. 1800-1810. Route 133 and Fryeburg Harbor Road at North Fryeburg

Tradition places this Federal style structure on record as the second or third house to be constructed at North Fryeburg Village. Though its symmetrical, five-bay facade now displays a Victorian period porch, and one of its large interior chimneys has been removed, the hip-roofed, clapboard-covered residence retains much of its earlier character. Among the house's most interesting interior features are the "Indian shutters" in the first floor front rooms, and a movable wall on the second floor, a portion of which was once used as a dance hall. The proportions of the first and second story windows exhibit the graduated sizes often seen on houses of this period and style.



F-5. UNIVERSALIST CHAPEL

1838. Junction of Route 113 and Fish Street

Erected in 1838, the Universalist Chapel at North Fryeburg is an interesting and virtually unchanged example of a vernacular church which displays a combination of Federal and Gothic influences in an impressive rural setting. The Universalist Society was organized in 1809, at a time when there was considerable diversity of religious feeling in the town. The structure's fenestration includes two windows near the center of the northwest entrance wall, and doors placed between these and the front corners. The sides of the clapboard-covered building have windows topped by pointed-arch openings covered with louvered shutters; this Gothic motif originally appeared over the facade doorways, but was removed in 1901 when general repairs to the exterior and interior were carried out, including the replacement of original clear glass panes in all windows with semi-translucent ones. In the well-defined pedimented gable is a broad louvered fan similar to those over Federal period doorways. Below this, between the facade windows, is a well-preserved nineteenth century sign displaying, among other things, the year in which the structure was completed. The building is topped by a square tower, an open belfry, and an underscaled steeple crowned with a fine weathervane.

F-6. LUTHER RICHARDSON HOUSE

ca. 1800. Fish Street

No enlistments for service in the War of 1812 were to be found in Fryeburg until 1814 when a company was raised for the protection of Portland. Among those listed was Luther Richardson, who constructed this massive two-and-a-half

story Federal house around 1800 near the intersection of Fish Street with the "West Side Road," now Route 113. Though the house has a distinguished Federal doorway with a particularly broad louvered fan, the basic form of the building is a holdover from earlier Colonial structures with their emphasis on great mass and large proportions. The Richardson House displays smaller windows on the second story, an original feature that is evident in many of Fryeburg's early nineteenth century Federal period houses.



F-7. DAY HOUSE ("River Knoll Farm")

ca. 1810-20. Fish Street

The Day House stands on the west side of Fish Street near the old course of the Saco River and is typical of the many gable-roofed two-and-a-half story structures raised in the county immediately after its formation. The Federal style house is particularly noteworthy for its fine doorway and attractive rural setting. The house and its immediate surroundings were captured on film for Wallace Nutting's work, *Maine Beautiful*, in 1924.

F-8. BENJAMIN WILEY HOUSE

1772, 1790-92. Fish Street (NR)

This impressive and well-preserved connected farmstead was built by one of the earliest residents of "Fish Street," named for the plentiful supply of fish that once existed in the nearby old course of the Saco River (a canal was constructed in 1816-20 to divert its unpredictable waters away from the valuable farmland in the northern half of the town). The Wiley House incorporates in its ell one of the



oldest standing buildings in Fryeburg, a two-story wood frame structure dating to 1772. Benjamin Wiley, a founder of the local Universalist Church Society (see F-5) and one of the soldiers from Fryeburg who was sent to protect the residents of Bethel after it was raided by Indians in August of 1781, constructed the larger central-chimneyed section of the house in 1790-92. Architecturally, the massive foursquare portion is a prototype for the rural adaptation of early Federal design; its main five-bay facade is distinguished by narrow, multi-paned windows and a doorway with semi-circular fan, sidelights, and framing pilasters.

F-9. NATHANIEL FRYE HOUSE

ca. 1800-1810. Fish Street

Standing opposite the road to Fryeburg Harbor, this well-preserved Federal style residence was the home of Nathaniel Frye, a son of Fryeburg's founder and namesake, General Joseph Frye. The house, with its narrow clapboard covering and extensive rear ell, is a fine example of the shallow, rectangular house forms that became the antithesis of heavier Colonial and Georgian types. Nathaniel Frye was a Revolutionary veteran and one of the first to settle in this part of Fryeburg.

South of the Frye House, and beyond one of the numerous cemeteries in the town, stands the massive Ebenezer Day House (ca. 1790-1800), an early Federal style house with a particularly fine entrance doorway with fan and sidelights. Besides being the home of a prominent Fryeburg family (Day was one of the petitioners for incorporation in 1777), the farmstead provided an important setting for artist Eastman Johnson's painting "Corn Husking," which depicts a barn still standing on the property. Though born in the nearby town of Lovell (see L-20), Johnson lived part of his youth on Fish Street, where he obtained impressions of country life that were later reproduced in his paintings.

Interestingly, Johnson's father, Philip C. Johnson, later Maine secretary of state, managed the Oxford House hotel in Fryeburg Village. The Ebenezer Day House has experienced several remodelings since its construction; the most noticeable changes are the extended roof eaves and the wall covering of asphalt siding.



F-10. WYMAN HOUSE

ca. 1850. Fish Street

This two-and-a-half story house standing in a rural location is one of the county's best examples of vernacular domestic architecture decorated in the then-popular Gothic Revival style, in this case by the addition of scrollwork boarding which is placed on the eaves and over the windows and doors as decorative hoods. While the building conforms to the ubiquitous gable-to-the-street Greek Revival houses of the period, the pitch of the roof is much steeper than in houses of that style; the gabled hoods of the facade windows on this "Carpenter Gothic" house serve to accentuate, in a highly exuberant manner, the "pointed" style first expressed in medieval models. In a further attempt to achieve a picturesque effect, the house's sides are covered in vertical board and batten sheathing, a wall treatment almost wholly confined to the Gothic Revival style.

F-11. TOLL BRIDGE SCHOOLHOUSE

ca. 1826. Route 5

The District Number Thirteen or Toll Bridge Schoolhouse (named for a nearby crossing over the old course of the Saco River) is probably the earliest and least-altered (on the exterior) of the many one-room schoolhouses still standing



in Oxford County. Built on land donated by John Barker, Jr., the story-and-a-half clapboarded structure with projecting entry was originally designed with the floor on an incline from the center to each side, with rough benches encircling a centrally-located stove. The floor was unfortunately leveled before 1910; during the same remodeling, the ancient wooden benches were replaced with cast iron and wood Victorian types. The Toll Bridge Schoolhouse remained in use until 1938, when improved methods of transportation to "consolidated" schools forced its closing. As agreed in an early nineteenth century document, the building and land reverted to the heirs of John Barker, who have sensitively maintained the low gable-roofed structure since that time.

Besides the Toll Bridge Schoolhouse, other survivors of the seventeen district schools that once stood in Fryeburg include the East Fryeburg School (see F-35), the Smart's Hill School (reached from Lovell Village), the District One School (see F-20), and the Fryeburg Harbor School (see F-1). Although other former schoolhouses, now converted into residences, remain extant, the above are the least-altered examples of this modest, but common, rural construction.

F-12. BARKER HOUSE

ca. 1786. Route 5 north of old course of Saco River

This sturdy, two-and-a-half story dwelling with massive center chimney and simply-framed facade doorway with transom light was the home of three generations of the Barker family. Benjamin Barker, one of the town "proprietors" who purchased one of the sixty original rights of land directly from General Joseph Frye in the 1760s, was the first to settle on this upland site with its commanding view of the White Mountains. The present house, raised about 1786, retains the look of earlier Colonial or Georgian style houses in a region where few Federal style structures were built before 1800. Although the house features



elements that derive from later alterations, such as the projecting gable eaves, cornice returns, two-over-two-light sash, and asymmetrically-placed Greek Revival side entrance doorway, its basic form remains intact. Importantly, original nine-over-six paned windows survive in one first story corner room.

Across Route 5 and a little south stands the Gordon Farmstead (ca. 1776, 1790-1800 and later), a fine example of a connected structure having both a Federal style main house and an earlier ell which is undoubtedly the first house erected at the site. This clapboard-covered building, now converted for use by two families, was the late nineteenth century home of Albion P. Gordon, farmer, surveyor, Oxford County commissioner, state senator, and member of the governor's council. The Gordon House has windows that have seen alteration in both sash type and size. The west (main) entrance facade has a two-story porch or portico similar in form to that on the David R. Hastings House (see F-24) at Fryeburg Village.

F-13. FRYEBURG CENTER

Route 5 at Woodlawn Avenue and Fish Street

The small cluster of houses, farmsteads, and public buildings at Fryeburg Center contains several structures of historic and architectural importance. Besides clearing home sites at the "Seven Lots," many of the town's first settlers located at or near Fryeburg Center for a number of reasons. Foremost among these was the fact that "Frye Hill," the home of town founder General Joseph Frye, was close by. Frye built a two-story, gambrel-roofed house and store in 1768 (burned, 1812), just south of the Center and west of Route 5. Additionally, the home of the Reverend William Fessenden, the town's first minister, and the old town "Training Field" and "Burying Ground" (the latter where General Frye and other neighborhood residents were buried before removal to the Pine Grove Cemetery



in the Village) were situated opposite Frye Hill and south of the present Canal Bridge, over the new course of the Saco River. In 1767, when it came time to construct the settlement's first place of worship, the citizens chose a committee "to center the Meeting House," and this location was deemed the exact center of the township.

On the east side of Route 5 is the Fryeburg Town Hall, a vernacular Greek Revival structure built in 1847 which retains much of its original character. The story-and-a-half frame structure has clapboard-covered walls, shuttered windows with six-over-six lights, a center doorway on the gabled street facade, and a closed pediment created by a bracketed cornice return taking the form of a "pent roof." Centered above an octagonal window in the attic gable is a sign carrying the date the building was raised. Though no longer situated at the exact center of the town's population, due mostly to the rapid twentieth century growth of Fryeburg Village to the south, the Town Hall has played an important role in the social and political life of Fryeburg.

South of the Town Hall is the former Old Fellows Hall, a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed vernacular structure probably built between 1890 and 1900. Recently refurbished for commercial use, this tall, austere structure is similar in form to numerous grange halls and fraternal buildings found throughout the county.

The site immediately south of the Odd Fellows Hall was where the second meetinghouse at the Center was raised in 1778, replacing an earlier structure of 1767 which stood across the road to the south and was never completed. The 1778 structure was typical of eighteenth century "second-period" New England meetinghouses built with the pulpit centered high on the long north wall. Designed with one of its entrances on the west gable end, the second Fryeburg Center Meetinghouse also remained unfinished, having no galleries, no means of heat, and only roughly-made plank seats of white pine; it was demolished sometime before 1858.

Two early nineteenth century houses and a major farmstead complete the run of structures from the Odd Fellows Hall to Canal Bridge. The first, the Lewis-Walker House, was originally constructed about 1815 during the Federal period, but major changes made ca. 1850, mostly in the Greek Revival mode, altered its appearance. To what had been a plain five-bay rectangular building were added heavy window moldings, two-over-two-paned sash, a fully entablatured doorway with sidelights, and decorative wooden scrollwork along the eaves. The latter addition gives the structure a fanciful character not unlike that found on many Lovell Village buildings (see L-20).

Next in line is the present "Buzzell Farm," the oldest portion of which, built by Isaac Abbott, dates at least to 1774 and possibly to 1766-67. Abbott was one of several pioneer settlers to journey from Andover, Massachusetts, to the wilderness outpost that was early Fryeburg. Arriving in 1764, Abbott cleared this now-extensive farmstead, but returned south during the Revolution where he spent the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. In addition, he responded to the call from Bethel when it was attacked in "New England's last Indian raid," in August of 1781.

The present large two-and-a-half story vernacular style house reflects a number of additions to Abbott's eighteenth century home, including the westernmost portion (ca. 1820-30) which has a five-bay facade, centrally-located entrance door, gabled dormers, and a wraparound porch. In the ell, which is probably the oldest section, is a room where winter religious services were held when the unheated 1778 Meetinghouse, mentioned above, was in use. South of the main farmstead, which also includes several outbuildings and a large detached barn, is the Abbott-Quint House (ca. 1800-1810), now part of the Buzzell property. Its transitional features, namely Greek Revival moldings on an otherwise Federal style structure, indicate to what lengths owners went in adapting to then-current architectural trends. Among the several generations of Buzzells to occupy the main house was E. Chandler Buzzell, state representative in 1911-12 and state senator in 1925-26 and 1927-28.

Across the road, the Charles Farmstead, an early nineteenth century Cape with connecting ell, shed and barn, may date as early as 1809. Despite the intrusion of a shed dormer atop the facade of its otherwise unspoiled Cape section, the building reflects well the modest farmsteads that dotted the Oxford County landscape early in the nineteenth century.

F-14. HUTCHINS HOUSE

ca. 1825-30. Route 113 (West Side Road)

Located on the west side of Route 113 in West Fryeburg, not far from the New Hampshire line, the Hutchins House is possibly the finest-preserved brick Cape extant in Fryeburg. The house fronts on the second oldest highway in the township, one which ran west of the Saco River to about where the Universalist Chapel (see F-5) now stands; this "open road" was authorized in July 1767.

North of the Hutchins House and just beyond the West Fryeburg Cemetery, a late eighteenth century, two-and-a-half story, five bay house with center chimney and pilastered doorway with transom light stands on the west side of the road overlooking the expansive Saco River intervals. West Fryeburg also contains a number of well-preserved early nineteenth century wood frame Capes and a variety of mid-to-late nineteenth century rural farmsteads of much interest to students of New England vernacular architecture.



F-15. WEST OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIRGROUNDS
ca. 1885 and later. Route 5, north of Main Street

This major grouping of vernacular buildings is important both as a symbol of Oxford County's long involvement with agricultural production and as a testimony to the many county citizens who still earn part or all of their living through some type of farming. Architecturally, the structures vary from a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed "exhibition" building and the board and batten sheathed "Farmers' Museum," to the huge trotting track grandstand and numerous animal sheds.

The West Oxford Agricultural Society was chartered on June 3, 1851 at Brownfield, and its first fair was held in Hiram that year. Soon, however, the Society began holding its fair in Fryeburg, first near the present Congregational Church on Main Street, and then, after 1858, at a permanent fairgrounds off present-day Elm Street near the depot of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad (now Maine Central). Desiring more land on which to expand, the Society purchased sixty acres north of Main Street in 1885 and since that time has seen continuous growth in both buildings and attendance.

At one time Oxford County supported four thriving agricultural societies, of

which the Fryeburg association and the Oxford County Agricultural Society at Oxford (formerly Paris and Norway; see P-22) are the only survivors. Annual fairs were once held in Andover by the North Oxford Agricultural Society, and in the Canton/Rumford Falls area by the East Oxford Agricultural Society, later known as the Androscoggin Valley Agricultural Association.

F-16. DAVID EVANS HOUSE

before 1767(?), 19th century, 1923. Route 5, north of Main Street

Local tradition holds that this broad, high-roofed Cape is the oldest surviving frame house in Fryeburg (see also F-20), though there is some question as to how much of the original house has survived the substantial additions and remodelings carried out here. David Evans, who erected the house a short time after his arrival in the settlement in 1763, was given lot number seven, the northernmost of the several choice parcels in General Joseph Frye's grant that now comprise much of Fryeburg Village. Evans completed his modest residence before the terms of settlement in the original grant ran out (1767), a significant marker for dating the handful of very early frame structures extant in the town. Several generations of the Evans family resided here well into the twentieth century.

David Evans was a veteran of Rogers' Rangers, as well as a petitioner for the incorporation of Fryeburg in 1777. At the first town meeting, he was appointed "surveyor of lumber" and "culler of shingles," two important positions in what was then the only organized community in the White Mountain region.

Among the most significant alterations to this venerable structure have been the addition of two early village buildings (a district schoolhouse and a wing from a nearby tavern) to form the present rear ell, and the raising of the roof on the Cape in 1923 to allow better use of the second story.

F-17. OSGOOD-TINKER HOUSE

1806, 1912. Route 5, north of Main Street

This handsome Federal style house stands back from the street and several houses north of its original location as the front portion of the Bradley-Spaulling House (see F-20). Probably built by "Lieutenant" James Osgood, the house was moved to this site around 1850 and restored in 1912 by a later owner, Berlin F. Tinker. Though a large part of the structure appears to be original, a number of design elements, notably the large, multi-paned windows, the projecting gable-end eaves, and the "high style" entrance doorway, with its thin, engaged columns and very substantial leaded glass fan, may be the result of Colonial Revival additions carried out in the 1912 work. This dignified and well-preserved house also features a "flying staircase" in the entrance hallway.

To the south and on the same side of the street is the Fessenden House (ca.



1850), a vernacular Greek Revival story-and-a-half structure used for many years as a demonstration farm for Fryeburg Academy. Across the street, the Eastman House is a well-preserved early nineteenth century Cape with an extensive two-story ell.

F-18. COOK-MACFARLANE HOUSE

1760s(?), ca. 1790 and later. Route 5, north of Main Street

Standing on the western side of Route 5 about halfway between the Osgood-Tinker House and the Bradley-Spaulding House is the now somewhat altered home of the Reverend Amos Jones Cook, who followed Daniel Webster as "preceptor" of Fryeburg Academy from 1803-1833. The clapboard covered, five bay, two-and-a-half story, early Federal style house has a projecting entry porch with fan and sidelights, and two end chimneys which were added when the original center chimney was removed. During the same remodeling, the original nine-over-six paned windows were replaced with the present two-over-two paned types. Early deeds record that the main portion of the house was built by George Hill, most likely in the early 1790s; the house may also contain remnants of the 1760s home of James Clements, who was granted lot number five of the original "Seven Lots" at this site.

The Reverend Amos Cook was one of early Fryeburg's most colorful and influential citizens. Besides operating the Academy for many years, Cook collected and published historical information on the town, was one of the first to participate in (and recognize the importance of) the excavation of local Indian sites, established a "museum of curiosities" which also included the first telescope and thermometer in the vicinity, and helped found the "Hans Gram Musical Society," the first organized (1810) choral group in Oxford County.

F-19. PHILIP PAGE HOUSE ("The Brig")

ca. 1798 and later. Route 5, north of Main Street

Moved twice before coming to rest in 1810-11 on the east side of Route 5, a short distance north of its junction with Route 302 (Main Street), the Philip Page House is a five-bay, single-room-deep, Federal style residence which originally stood on Main Street nearly opposite the entrance to Portland Street. Not long after its construction, the house was moved across Main Street and stood facing west until the fall of 1810, when it was placed on "shoes" (long logs pointed at the ends) and dragged by several ox teams to its present location. Having reached what appeared to be its "final anchorage," the front (and oldest portion) of this much-expanded village residence became locally-known as "The Brig."

F-20. MAIN STREET

Routes 302, 5 and 113

Located on a level plateau above the rich intervalles of the Saco River, Main Street at Fryeburg Village was early seen as an ideal location for settlement and social development. Long the site of the Abenaki Indian village of "Pequawket" (several spellings), the almost mile-long street includes significant architecture dating from the earliest period of the county's settlement to the mid-twentieth century.

One of Colonel Joseph Frye's first official acts was to lay out a series of forty acre lots encompassing present-day Fryeburg Village and the nearby Saco intervalles; until the town's incorporation in 1777 as the first in the county (then northern York County), the village and much of the surrounding area was known only as "The Seven Lots." The first framed structures at the village were raised in the middle-to-late 1760s; though documentary evidence exists for only a few extant examples, several others may stand in the general vicinity, incorporated into later buildings or relocated at other sites. The Nathaniel Merrill House (1767 and earlier), which comprises the ell of the Squire Chase House (NR; see below) on the northern end of the street, is considered to be the oldest house in Fryeburg for which documentary evidence exists; the Merrill House is thus the oldest wood-framed structure remaining in Oxford County.

Situated on the corner formed by the intersection of the Bridgton Road (Route 302) with Main Street is an impressive collection of buildings forming the Fryeburg Academy campus. The focal point of the group is the main classroom building, the center section of which ("Academy Hall") was begun in 1852 by Ammi Cutter of Lovell after designs by Boston architect Gridley J. F. Bryant. Completed and dedicated in the fall of 1853, the two-storied, hip-roofed brick structure with tent-roofed octagonal cupola combines Gothic and Italianate characteristics into an appealing composition. The building displays quoined corners of granite, a finely worked corbelled cornice, and paired windows framed together below broad Tudor arches.



"Academy Hall"

Founded in 1792, Fryeburg Academy was first located in a one-story frame building which stood under "Pine Hill," on the southern corner of River and Main streets within present-day Bradley Memorial Park. It was here that Daniel Webster taught for a term, beginning in January 1802. His predecessor, and the academy's first "preceptor," was Paul Langdon, a Revolutionary War veteran and highly successful teacher who was the son of the Reverend Samuel Langdon, president of Harvard University during the Revolution.

Outgrowing its original quarters, the academy moved to its present site, where a two-story wood frame building with belfry (containing "the first bell to sound over the Pequawket region") was completed in 1806. This structure was destroyed by fire on May 28, 1851. Thereafter, until the present building was completed, the academy consecutively occupied three nearby structures: the "South Meetinghouse" (1795-1851), which stood north of the academy on the corner of present Routes 5 and 302; the "stone schoolhouse" (now the Fryeburg Library), located on Main Street nearly opposite the site of the academy's first building; and the Congregational Vestry, which still exists a short distance south. Interestingly, many of the timbers used in the 1852 edifice came from the demolished South Meetinghouse (see above), a two-and-a-half story, galleried structure replaced by the present Congregational Church (1848-50) further down the street. About 1924, two brick wings in a sympathetic style were added to "Academy Hall," the gift of Philadelphia publisher and philanthropist, Cyrus H. K. Curtis. Regrettably, the symmetrical arrangement of this grouping was recently disturbed by the placement of another extension off the south wing ("Cutter Hall").

Directly behind and to the east of the academy, in "Pine Grove Cemetery," is the gravesite of Colonel Joseph Frye, founder of the town. This expansive burying

ground is almost entirely enclosed with a fence of upright granite slabs, an unusual but impressive utilization of this locally-plentiful material. The cemetery was established in 1841 (the Frye graves were originally located near "Frye Hill," south of present-day Fryeburg Center; see F-13) and the fence erected in 1870.



Ames-Bradley House

Standing on the east side of Main Street between the academy and the Congregational Church are five structures of historic and architectural merit. On the grounds of the academy is the Federal style Ward-Cook House (ca. 1820-30), built by Timothy C. Ward, a prominent local merchant and owner of a commercial block that stood at the "Whirlpool," the business center of town at the junction of Portland and Main streets. Now the Academy Infirmary, the five-bay, two-and-a-half story house has seen numerous alterations, though much of its early character remains. Beyond the Ward-Cook House and a modern brick dormitory is the Ames-Bradley House, a foursquare, gable-roofed structure that was built soon after 1790 by "Squire" Moses Ames. One of the early town founders, Ames came to Fryeburg in 1763 and settled on lot number four of the original "Seven Lots." Ames built first on the western side of Main Street, near the present memorial to Admiral Peary; his ca. 1760s house was the first destroyed by fire in the village. He immediately constructed the present late Colonial/early Federal style house, which remained on the western side of the street until moved to its present site in 1895. The house displays clapboarded side walls and a flush-boarded five-bay facade. The second-story doorway, narrow Victorian period chimneys, six-over-six paned windows, and screened porch sheltering a side-lighted facade entrance are all later alterations. A valuable likeness of the first home of this early trustee of Fryeburg Academy and representative to the General Court in Boston appears as the frontispiece to John Stuart Barrows' 1938 history of the town.

Further south and on the same side of Main Street is the Greek Revival side-hall-plan Bradley-Barbour House, the front portion of which was built in 1835.

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Structural evidence, including nine-over-six paned sash and early fireplace construction, supports a date of ca. 1811-12 for the Federal period section, now the rear ell. The house's most notable former resident was Anne Cary Bradley, a prominent local landscape artist. The house was purchased in 1880 by the local Congregationalists and used for several years as their first parsonage.



Congregational Church Vestry

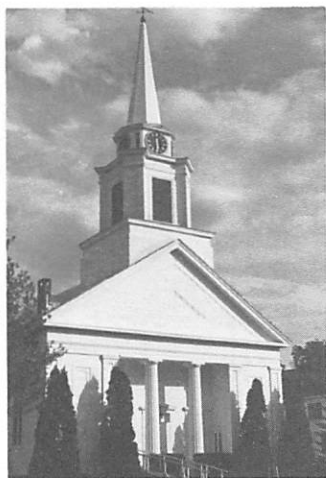
The Congregational Church Vestry, a story-and-a-half frame structure with a flush-boarded gable-end facade and a projecting entry porch below a closed pediment, was built in 1837 and stands further down the street. The small but architecturally important example of an early nineteenth century meeting place displays Federal influence in the semi-elliptical fan at the center of the pediment. Surprisingly, both the entry porch and the small belfry with louvered openings were added around 1870, the porch replacing a pair of doorways leading into an entry hall which ran the width of the structure. Long used for a variety of church functions, the building once housed winter worship services which, until construction of the present church, were seldom held in the cold and drafty South Meetinghouse.

Next to the vestry is the Barrows House, built in 1809-10 by John Stuart Barrows I, son of Revolutionary veteran and founder of Hebron Academy, "Deacon" William Barrows (see H-14). One of Fryeburg's most historic structures, the Barrows House retains the massive proportions of earlier Colonial or Georgian houses, yet exhibits a very sophisticated Federal style doorway with semi-circular fan, sidelights, and framing pilasters. During the middle of the nineteenth century the roof eaves were extended, large brackets were added, and the attic windows were altered to round-arch types, all characteristics of the then-popular Italianate style. Besides some fine interior woodwork, one upstairs bedroom displays wall frescoes executed by the itinerant artist Rufus Porter (who attended the nearby academy in 1804). In an especially fine state of preservation,



Barrows House

these murals (ca. 1830) depict lush forest scenes and sweeping coastal seascapes. Among the family members of prominence who once resided here were George Bradley Barrows, a founder of the West Oxford Agricultural Society, agricultural editor of the *Portland Daily Press*, and president of the Maine senate in 1864, and his son, John Stuart Barrows III, author of *Fryeburg, Maine: An Historical Sketch* (1938). Handsomely proportioned and well-preserved by descendants of the original owner, the Barrows House is an important example of changing tastes in architecture as reflected by the home of a prominent inland Maine family.



Congregational Church

The Fryeburg Congregational Church, begun in 1848 and completed in 1850, is one of Oxford County's finest Greek Revival ecclesiastical structures of wood. The most conspicuous public building on Main Street, the church follows designs by architect C. K. Kirley and was constructed by Brownfield carpenter Oliver S. Hurd. Its classical facade is distinguished by an inset entry framed by Doric columns flanked by *antae*. Above the boldly-modeled pediment with its inset triangular panel is an equally impressive belfry with heavy wooden corner pilasters. The clock above was part of the original design, though the actual clockworks were not installed until 1874. The wooden spire with windvane, though reaching to a height of one hundred feet, is rather underscaled for the rest of the building. The church's most unusual feature is its side walls of board and batten sheathing, a wall treatment seen most often on structures built in the Gothic Revival style (this particular combination of Greek and Gothic Revival design motifs is advanced even further in the Bethel Congregational Church of 1847; see B-12).

The Congregationalists were organized in Fryeburg in 1775 and ordained the Reverend William Fessenden, formerly of Dunbarton, New Hampshire (and the grandfather of the eminent lawyer and statesman, William Pitt Fessenden) as their first-settled minister that same year. The town's first two meetinghouses were raised at Fryeburg Center Village (see F-13); the third place of worship, the South Meetinghouse (see above), was torn down at the completion of the present Congregational Church.



Tarbox House

Beyond the vernacular Italianate, cross-gabled Tarbox House, built next to the church in 1868, is a Georgian Revival commercial structure at the corner of Main and Portland streets. Built in 1922 from designs by Portland architect John F. Thomas, this building of Indiana limestone and waterstruck brick is one of the few



Georgian Revival bank building

small but substantially constructed buildings raised in this style in Oxford County between the turn-of-the-century and the Great Depression.

South of a group of some half-dozen vernacular commercial buildings, which includes a bank with hip-roof, cupola, and encircling colonnade, is the Lyman-Osgood House, most recently known as "Ye Olde Inn." Situated on the southern corner of the Oxford and Main Street junction, the house was built about 1800 by Dr. Eliphalet Lyman, who served the community for many years after his move here from Connecticut. When first built, the house stood where the Congregational Church (see above) now stands. Moved by ox teams to this corner lot about 1848, the building was later owned by "Colonel" Edward L. Osgood, a prominent Fryeburg lawyer and direct descendant of Major Samuel Osgood, who built a house on lot two of "The Seven Lots" (directly opposite) soon after his arrival here in 1763. Samuel's son, Lieutenant James Osgood, built the "Oxford House," a substantial wood frame hotel, where his father's early house (Fryeburg's first tavern) had stood.

The Lyman-Osgood House is similar in form to the Ames-Bradley House further north on the street, and when originally built probably had its south five-bay facade facing west. The second floor doorway with sidelights and Greek Revival molding, as well as the returning cornice forming the closed pediment in the street-facing, four-bay gable end, were alterations that probably took place when the house was moved. The chimney placement and basic form remain that of a Colonial house of the pre-Federal period however, making this one of the street's most interesting architectural transformations.

Three other structures of architectural interest stand between the Lyman-Osgood House and the corner of Elm and Main streets. The present Paugus Grange building, constructed in 1845 as a Methodist Church, represents an important local variation of the more typical temple-form Greek Revival structures built for ecclesiastic purposes. The symmetrically-arranged facade has



Paugus Grange building

a raised center section with inset panels at the top, and flanking bays framed by tall paneled pilasters, which in turn support heavy entablatures. The building became the "Church Hall" of the nearby "Church of the New Jerusalem" (see F-23) in 1895, a short time after the Methodists relocated to Fryeburg Harbor (see F-1). This important local landmark, which displayed a tall two-stage open belfry until the 1890s, came under grange ownership in 1956 and has been carefully maintained since that time.



Fryeburg Library

Next to the grange is the Fryeburg Library (NR), located in a granite and wood frame structure originally used as the village (District One) schoolhouse. Built in 1832, the former school has been altered only slightly by two later wings,

positioned back enough from the older portion to preserve its historic integrity. The building became the property of the "Fryeburg Woman's Library Club" (organized in 1890) in 1903. Inside, the library's collections include the personal memorabilia of the late Clarence E. Mulford, creator of the fictional character "Hopalong Cassidy." Mulford lived for many years in the two-and-a-half story, shingle-covered house which stands across the street. Behind the grange and library is the "Old Cemetery," the first burying ground established at Fryeburg Village.



Town Office (old Registry)

The small brick gable-to-the-street building just south of the library was built in 1820 as a registry of deeds for several of the surrounding towns. In 1799, the General Court of Massachusetts divided York County (in which Fryeburg was the northernmost settlement) into two "districts," the northerly half encompassing everything above the Ossipee River at present-day Porter and Hiram. Established a year later, the Fryeburg Registry became the depository for written land transactions in the region, much of what would soon become the eastern half of Oxford County then lying in northern Cumberland County. When Oxford County was incorporated in 1805, and a courthouse and registry established in the town of Paris some thirty miles away, the Fryeburg Registry, because of its convenient location, was maintained. James Osgood, proprietor of the first Oxford House hotel, was the first registrar, but Daniel Webster, then in his early twenties, did much of the actual copying of deeds for the first volume.

The registry rapidly outgrew the Main Street building and in 1918 a fine Georgian Revival structure (see F-27) was erected on nearby Portland Street. Since that time, the older building has been utilized as the Fryeburg Town Office. The exterior of this valuable reminder of the county's formative period displays a nicely-finished brick cornice, and simple granite window and door lintels and sills. A modern addition was made to the rear in 1975.



McNeal House

The McNeal House, on the southern corner of Elm and Main Streets, is a two-and-a-half story, clapboard-covered Federal style house with end chimneys and a particularly sophisticated semi-circular fan doorway, similar to that on the Barrows House (see above). Dating from the first decade of the nineteenth century, the house has an asymmetrically-arranged facade and a well-crafted spiral staircase in the front entrance hall.



Ripley-Eaton House

Further down the eastern side of the street, beyond an interesting selection of Capes and side-hall-plan vernacular Greek Revival houses dating from ca. 1825 to ca. 1875, stands the Ripley-Eaton House, built ca. 1810 and incorporating an

earlier structure of the 1790s as its rear ell. The two sections provide subtle contrasts in form and fenestration; the older portion has smaller window openings, a simple entrance door with transom light, and a very large center chimney, while the later, Federal style section displays a five-bay facade, somewhat larger windows, and chimneys set behind the roof ridge. A subsequent owner of this well-preserved house, which physically closes the run of eighteenth and nineteenth century structures on the eastern side of Main Street, was John B. Eaton, a Civil War veteran and Conway, New Hampshire, native who came to Fryeburg from Cincinnati to practice law in 1877. The long front porch with turned spindles along the frieze and pediment-shaped center gable was added in the late nineteenth century.



Osgood House

Standing in a prominent location on the southern end and western side of Main Street, the Osgood House is a foursquare, hip-roofed, Federal style structure built about 1810. With its imposing mass and finely-crafted exterior detailing (notably that at the cornice level and surrounding the fanned doorway), the house is one of the street's most impressive; it exists today in remarkably well-preserved condition. The Osgood House is connected by past ownership to the Squire Chase House (NR) at the other end of the street; in form and fenestration, the Osgood House resembles the latter before the addition of Italianate decorative elements.

North of the Osgood House is "Bradley Memorial Park," where the first Fryeburg Academy building stood and where commemorative exercises for the Fryeburg centennial were held in 1863. Further north, on the upper corner of the River and Main street junction, is the site of the Judah Dana House, a now-demolished local landmark. Constructed in 1816 by the first lawyer in present-day Oxford County, this elegant, hip-roofed Federal mansion was later the residence of John W. Dana, governor of Maine from 1847 to 1850. The structure's carriage

house, now used as a church, is all that remains of this remarkably well-executed early nineteenth century Federal complex. The Fryeburg Post Office and a service station now front the property.

North of the River Street corner are two Shingle style houses of architectural interest. Occupying the site of the "Oxford House" hotel (1801-1887), and the later (and larger) "The Oxford" (burned 1906), the Clarence E. Mulford House (left) and the Charles Fox House (right) are both modest in proportions and exterior decoration. The Mulford House is mainly significant as the home of an important early twentieth century author (see above), while the Fox House is notable as one of several county commissions by Maine's most famous architect, John Calvin Stevens of Portland.



Page House

Beyond several businesses housed in vernacular buildings raised after a fire in 1906 is the Page House, now the parsonage of the Congregational Church, which stands opposite. Spared by a fire which destroyed much of Main Street and the western end of Portland Street, the Page House was likely raised between 1825 and 1830, making it a late product of Federal period tastes in architecture. Its first owner, Captain John Page, was killed during the Mexican-American battle of Palo Alto in 1846. Of local interest is the fact that the rear ell of the Page House was once a "potash," an early, well-framed structure where lye was produced from wood ashes. With its sidelighted entrance door capped with a solid wood fan, and front yard enclosed by a fence that may date to the mid-nineteenth century, this village residence is a relatively unchanged survivor of a much earlier era.

Next to the Page House is the Greek Revival Barrows-Eaton House, the earliest portion of which was constructed by Dr. Reuel Barrows in the 1820s. It has the typical three-bay, door-to-the-side treatment found on many houses of the style; a gable-roofed addition to the north has created an especially long and appealing street facade.



Goodenow-Hastings House

Two houses north, the Goodenow-Hastings House, built by Charles Goodenow in the fall of 1895, is the finest Shingle style residence in Fryeburg, and one of the most important in the county. While present information has not revealed whether Stevens (mentioned above) or an equally prominent architect received the commission for this structure, its horizontal massing and employment of natural materials reflect a keen awareness of the surrounding landscape. The porch columns and pedimented entry are transitional features more often seen on Colonial Revival houses.

Beyond "Robert E. Peary Park," with its granite memorial and two meridian stones placed by Peary while a resident of Fryeburg (1877-79), is the Colonial Revival residence of Fryeburg Academy's headmaster. Standing next door is "Alumni House," a much-altered structure dating to 1835. Displaying later Italianate decorative elements, the building has been most recently used as the academy commons.

Opposite "Academy Hall," on the west side of Main Street near its northern terminus, is the Squire Chase House (NR), one of Fryeburg's most historic structures, and certainly the village's most architecturally imposing nineteenth century residence. The Chase House is actually two buildings raised in different periods and joined together around 1824. The older portion, which comprises nearly two-thirds of the present ell, was the eighteenth century home of Nathaniel Merrill, a veteran of the French and Indian Wars and the first to settle on lot six of the original "Seven Lots," now Fryeburg Village. Merrill erected his timber-frame house by 1767, the deadline for confirmation of General Joseph Frye's grant of 1762. This grant specified that Frye was to have at least sixty families settled here within five years, each with a dwelling no smaller than twenty by eighteen feet with seven foot studs. In addition, Merrill was one of three men who spent the first winter of 1762-63 at Fryeburg, thus inaugurating the permanent white settlement of what is now Oxford County. Merrill also did much of the earliest surveying in



Squire Chase House

the region before moving to Brownfield in 1799 (see B-30). As such, he deserves recognition as one of the first citizens of Fryeburg, the earliest upland township organized in northern New England.

The Merrill House passed to the Osgood and then the Chase family; it was "Squire" Stephen Chase, a lawyer from nearby Bridgton, who moved the large, square, hip-roofed portion from its former location a quarter of a mile north, to this Main Street site around 1824. In 1864, the property came into the hands of David R. Hastings (see also F-24 and L-20), a prominent county lawyer and Civil War veteran. It was he who extended the eaves, added the bracketed cornice, and topped the hipped-roof with an elaborate Italianate belvedere. Sometime previous to this, the entire east side was covered in flush-boarding, a notable wall treatment on many late Federal and Greek Revival houses in the county. This well-preserved example of an unusually tasteful and well-executed architectural "up-dating" returned to the descendants of early settler James Osgood in 1908, where it has remained ever since.

Facing the junction of Main Street with Route 302, and anchoring the northern end of the street as it changes to Route 5, is the Bradley-Spaulling House, the oldest portion of which (ca. 1818; possibly earlier) is the two-story section running parallel to and furthest from the road. In 1850, a front wing (ca. 1806; see F-17) was moved away and was not replaced until 1882, when the present two-and-a-half story, steeply-gabled, vernacular Greek Revival front portion was constructed by William Bradley. Like the Squire Chase House next door, the Bradley-Spaulling House is encircled by a distinctive wooden fence with granite posts, an important landscaping feature that lends grace and dignity to Oxford County's oldest-settled district.



F-21. BENJAMIN NEWMAN HOUSE

ca. 1792, 1800, 1887. River Street (Route 113)

The oldest portion of this eclectic wood frame structure was built around 1792 and stood near the site of the present Congregational Vestry on Main Street (see F-20). Here, in February of 1798, Elijah Russell founded the county's first newspaper, "Russell's Echo, or the North Star." Planned at first as a weekly, the newspaper was infrequently issued due to the lack of paper in so remote an area. The last number of the now-rare publication appeared on January 11, 1799. Russell's printing establishment (which also served as his residence) was moved to this River Street location soon after 1800 and, under the ownership of the Stickney family, several additions were made. The present rambling structure, with its numerous gables, bay windows, porches, and three-story hip-roofed corner tower, is the result of major alterations carried out mainly in 1887.

A subsequent owner of this house was Benjamin T. Newman, a Bath, Maine, native who, like many others, came to Fryeburg to record its dramatic landscape on canvas. Painting well into the twentieth century, Newman is noted for both his portraits and landscapes. His career followed closely on those of Benjamin Champney, John Kensett, and John Casilear, all of whom spent summers in the Fryeburg area capturing the grandeur of the White Mountains. The Newman House was also a favorite subject of noted New England photographer William B Post, who also became a Fryeburg resident.

East of the Newman House and on the same side of River Street is the Charles House, a hip-roofed, Federal style, five-bay structure dating from about 1820-30.

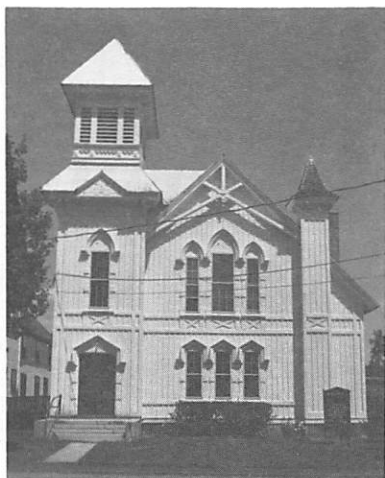


F-22. WESTON HOUSE ("Rivercroft Farm")

1870 and earlier. River Street (Route 113)

The Weston House, built by John Weston in 1870, is one of Oxford County's finest Second Empire or Mansard style residences and equals in its architectural distinction the marvelous panorama of the White Mountains visible from its location on the east bank of the Saco River. The site of the present house was first developed around 1764 by Henry Young Brown, grantee of what later became the town of Brownfield. A Federal style house was subsequently added to Brown's eighteenth century Cape by the Weston family, Brown having relocated further south when the Fryeburg town line was repositioned. Before raising their Victorian home, the Westons moved much of the earlier house to the corner of Smith and Warren streets in the village, where it may still exist in much-altered form.

The imposing, symmetrically-arranged, three-story house displays a wide variety of Victorian elements, including bay windows with recessed panels, tall paired windows framed together, prominent denticulated cornices supported by paired brackets, tall thin interior chimneys, and a broad first story porch displaying scroll brackets and a highly decorative frieze. The most interesting exterior feature is the steeply-pitched mansard roof which is surmounted by a curb and pierced by dormer windows topped with carved panels and pedimented lintels. Other interesting structural features include the three-story entrance hall with carved walnut staircase banister, and entrance doors with elaborately-etched glass panels. The present ell, which contains a dutch oven in one room, and a full basement with stone floor below, may be a rebuilt version of the older Federal period house first raised by the Weston family. The property, which also includes extensive sheds, barns, and agricultural outbuildings, remains in the hands of its builder's descendants.



F-23. CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM
1878-79. Oxford Street

Erected in 1878-79 by master carpenter Calvin Merrill after designs by Portland architect Charles H. Kimball, the Church of the New Jerusalem, or "New Church" (Swedenborgian), is Oxford County's finest example of the Stick style, and one of the few examples of this design mode extant in Maine. Reflecting a conscious effort to return to the realities of structure and away from the superficialities of later nineteenth century Victorian design, the Fryeburg New Church also combines such Gothic detailing as arched window hoods, trefoil decoration, and board and batten wall surfaces.

A group of Fryeburg residents, following the lead of former Congregationalist minister, the Reverend Baman N. Stone, formed a church in 1877 which followed the theological beliefs of Emanuel Swedenborg. Purchasing what was then a highly visible spot on Oxford Street, the church members commissioned Kimball (who also provided plans for the 1883 Kezar Falls Methodist Church; see P-32) to design "a two story structure in Gothic Revival style," while they continued to meet in "Court Hall" at the old Oxford House hotel on Main Street. Dedicated in August of 1879, the asymmetrically-arranged, steeply-roofed building was originally painted in contrasting shades of brown, though it now appears solid white. The tall corner tower with projecting eaves and supporting brackets received a bell in 1886.

Before many years had passed, John Locke, a successful village businessman and member of a rival church, erected a massive wood frame block with stores on the first floor and apartments above, just west of the New Church. Specifically constructed to block the view of, and from, the New Church, this "spite house" (known locally as "The Beehive") still casts its shadow over this remarkable architectural landmark.



F-24. DAVID R. HASTINGS HOUSE

ca. 1880. Elm Street

The residence of one of Fryeburg's most prominent nineteenth century lawyers, "Major" David R. Hastings, this traditional form, two-and-a-half story, vernacular Victorian house with Italianate embellishments is notable for its symmetrical plan and rich decorative detail. A Bethel native, Hastings graduated from Bowdoin in 1844, served a brief term as principal of Gould Academy (1844-45), and established himself as a lawyer in the nearby town of Lovell in 1847. In 1864, after a distinguished career as Major of the Twelfth Maine Infantry during the Civil War, Hastings moved to Fryeburg, residing in the Squire Stephen Chase House (see F-20) on Main Street before erecting this Elm Street residence.

The Hastings House displays a three-bay facade with first story bay windows framing a centered, double-doored entry. A two-story pedimented porch with thin, square corner posts, decorative scroll-cut brackets, and cutout patterned balustrade shelters both the first and second story doorways. The cornices of the bay windows and main block are accentuated with paired brackets. The house also has an open porch off the southeast end wall, a two-story bay window on the opposite wall, and a pair of tall interior chimneys crowning the roof ridge.

F-25. ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY HOUSE

ca. 1860. Elm Street

This cross-gabled, eclectic, mansard-roofed house was the home of Robert E. Peary, who came here after graduating from Bowdoin College in 1877. Peary spent his youth making frequent visits to the North Fryeburg home of his mother's family, the Wileys, and tested the Saco's current on many a canoe trip. Until his departure in 1879 for the Coast Survey office at Washington, D.C., Peary



conducted surveying studies in Fryeburg, mapping much of the present village. He also spent most of one winter observing the North Star in establishing a meridian line on an open lot on the west side of Main Street (see F-20). How much Peary's labors in Fryeburg inspired his later quest for the North Pole, one can only speculate. His brief stay in the town is commemorated by two monuments later erected to his memory — one near his meridian stones, and another atop "Jockey Cap," a prominent rock outcropping between the village and Lovewell's Pond.



F-26. WESTERN MAINE NURSERY HEADQUARTERS
ca. 1885-90. Elm Street

Irregular in plan and picturesque in exterior detail, this eclectic vernacular

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Victorian residence ranks high as an important village structure. Based on then-popular Queen Anne designs (such structures have more to do with early medieval traditions, than with the early eighteenth century reign of Queen Anne), the house exhibits many characteristics of the style, including a wide variety of window types and sizes, wall setbacks, and roof planes. The structure culminates in a fine three-story tower sheathed in alternating clapboards and fish-scale shingles. Its steeply-pitched hipped roof displays eyebrow windows, projecting double-windowed dormers, and ornamental roof cresting. Little changed since its construction, the house represents a local response to late nineteenth century Victorian tastes in domestic architecture.



F-27. REGISTRY OF DEEDS (Western Division)

1918. Portland Street (Routes 5 and 113)

The Fryeburg Registry of Deeds was established in 1800 to provide record-keeping services for the northern portion of York County, of which Fryeburg was a part until Oxford County was created five years later. Due to the distance between some of the county's southwesternmost towns and the county seat at Paris Hill Village, the registry here was continued after 1805. Before moving to this Portland Street location (long the site of a large Federal style hotel known variously as the "Temperance House," "Fryeburg House," and "Pequawket House" (burned 1906), the registry occupied space at Samuel Osgood's "Oxford House" hotel, and after 1820 moved to the small story-and-a-half brick structure on Main Street now used as the Fryeburg Town Office (see F-20). The period when Daniel Webster copied deeds was probably the most noteworthy in the registry's long history.

The 1918 Portland Street building was designed in the Georgian Revival style, in keeping with its important county function. Of brick construction with a high

granite foundation capped with a rough-surfaced granite water table, the structure has paired windows beneath semi-circular glass fans set in arched openings with granite keystones. The main entrance doorway features engaged Doric columns which support an entablature with triglyphs. Above this, a broken-arch modillioned pediment frames a sculptured shield displaying the word "Oxford." Just below the roofline, a boldy-proportioned modillioned cornice surrounds the rectangular building; the exterior wall rises slightly over the entrance bay and carries another sign just above the cornice.

The large, more-simply-designed brick structure east of the Registry was built soon after 1918 by the local American Legion Post. Now used as offices, it once housed the Fryeburg Post Office.



F-28. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY BUILDING

ca. 1870-80. Portland Street (Routes 5 and 113)

The Christian Science Society at Fryeburg Village was formed in 1933 and presently functions from a small story-and-a-half Italianate house that is one of the town's most interesting and well-preserved examples. Basically a high-posted Cape with a reworked second story and Italianate decorative elements, the house has windows with flat lintels or window heads, a center doorway with full sidelights and bracketed hood, and a rather heavy roof cornice supported by small but ornate brackets. Also typical of the style as seen locally is the bay window on the east wall of the first floor, and the "jerkin head roof," or "clipped gable," found at the gable ends. This roof variation, which gives the building a strongly three-dimensional effect, is also found over the center wall gable which displays a round arch window placed directly over the first floor entrance.

Another local building which makes use of the clipped gable is the North Fryeburg Schoolhouse (completed 1908, replaced 1948) which still stands in

somewhat altered condition on the east side of Route 113 in North Fryeburg Village.

Across Portland Street is the Bennett House, a large-scale vernacular residence with a two-and-a-half story barn attached to and closely matching the main house's form. The rambling building, with its variety of dormer gables and window forms, is a characteristic example of simplified Victorian tastes in architecture.



F-29. ISAAH WARREN HOUSE ("Doughnut Tree House")
ca. 1809-10, ca. 1830. Portland Street (Routes 5 and 113)

This substantial five-bay, two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house was the nineteenth century home of one of Fryeburg's most successful businessmen, Isaiah Warren. In addition to his impressive Portland Street home (rebuilt around 1830 from an earlier Federal style structure), Warren at one time owned a steam saw mill, a store, and an iron foundry, the latter of which supplied the region with stove fittings and plows before the arrival of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad in 1871 disrupted tightly-knit local markets.

The Warren House, as rebuilt in the Greek Revival mode, boasts a main facade with a heavily-entablatured pediment and windows with six-over-six lights topped with pediment-shaped lintels. The second and third stories are supported by four Greek Doric columns spaced evenly before the inset five-bay first-story wall. This vertical support system is continued on the second story by heavy paneled corner pilasters. A large wing extending from the east wall of the main block has seen minor changes in its fenestration.

Tradition holds that Warren at one time objected to a low elm branch in his yard that constantly removed his hat. Twisting it produced the famous "doughnut"

which became a local landmark and popular tourist attraction. In 1964, the tree was removed, but the name "Doughnut Tree House" remains.



F-30. FIFIELD-HARRIMAN HOUSE

1819 and later. Menotomy Road

One of the earliest settlers on Menotomy Road was Revolutionary veteran John Fifield who married Phebe Frye, daughter of Judge Simon Frye, in 1790, and built a now-destroyed house just east of the Judge's ca. 1767 home (see F-31). His son, Benjamin Fifield, built this five-bay Federal period house in 1819 on a parcel of land west of his grandfather Frye's residence. Though the two-and-a-half story house has an entrance doorway and exterior trim in the later, Greek Revival style, and is now without its barn and original outbuildings, the remaining structure, set in a largely unspoiled area, has changed little since its construction over a century-and-a-half ago. While the exterior of the house retains its multi-paned windows, the interior still evokes another era through its original fireplaces and surrounding woodwork. A later owner, John C. Harriman, was a successful merchant at Fryeburg Village.

F-31. SIMON FRYE HOUSE

1767, 1820, ca. 1913, 1950s. Menotomy Road

The original Fryeburg home of "Judge" Simon Frye, a nephew of town founder General Joseph Frye, was raised in September of 1767 and forms the nucleus of the present three-bay, two-and-a-half story house fronting on "Menotomy Road," so-named by the Reverend William Fessenden (grandfather of abolitionist senator



William Pitt Fessenden) because its course along the northwestern slope of Mount Tom suggested a place in Arlington, Massachusetts, called by the same Indian name. Simon Frye, like others of that influential family, came from Andover, Massachusetts, and almost immediately assumed the role of town benefactor and promoter. In addition to being Oxford County's first judge of the Court of Common Pleas, he served as proprietors' clerk in Fryeburg's earliest years, and like many of the first settlers, was a veteran of the French and Indian Wars (Rogers' Rangers). Moreover, Simon Frye holds the distinction of being the first (1781) representative to the General Court of Massachusetts from the White Mountain area. At other times, Frye filled the roles of town moderator, selectman, and deacon of the local Congregational Church; he also served as state senator from York County for two terms.

The appearance of the Frye House today is the result of several additions and "restorations," most notably the construction around 1820 of the large, eastern portion (which incorporated the older house as part of its first story), and the restoration in the 1950s of the large chimney, fireplace mantels, and multi-paned windows with types approximating the originals, which had been removed by 1913. Among the surviving early features on the interior are interesting walls of wide horizontal paneling; evidence of feather-edged clapboards, perhaps dating to the 1760s, also exists beneath several interior walls. The entrance doorway, with its long sidelights and shouldered architrave trim, is a Greek Revival addition probably made in the mid-nineteenth century.

East of the Frye House, beyond a vernacular, multi-windowed structure resembling a mill, and the former Menotomy Schoolhouse (ca. 1830-40), is the Fessenden, or Goldthwait, House, an eighteenth century Cape dating to 1776-78. Here, from the 1770s to 1901, four generations of this influential and important Fryeburg family made their home. The building exists today in somewhat remodeled condition. Until 1834, when the present road from Fryeburg Village to Bridgton was completed (Route 302), access to that Cumberland County town

was via the Menotomy Road and a ferry across the Saco River, operated by Simon Frye and subsequently by his son.

F-32. "WALKER HILL FARM"

1847. Route 302

This vernacular Italianate farmstead stands on a hilltop location east of the Menotomy Road and high above the nearby Saco River, once spanned by the "Walker's Hill Covered Bridge" (1848-1936). Built by Henry Walker, the extremely long structure with numerous gables and dependencies is one of the finest preserved and still operating connected farmsteads in the town.

The Walker family, like many of Fryeburg's earliest, came from the Concord, New Hampshire, area; among those family members of prominence who came east to the Saco River Valley were Lieutenant John Walker, who served at Fort William Henry when Quebec was taken; Ezekiel Walker, who came in 1766 and was the first licensed tavern-keeper in town; and Colonel James Walker, who for many years occupied the "Island Farm," an early-settled location lying between Lovewell's Pond and the Saco River.



F-33. HARNDEN HOUSE

ca. 1850-60. Denmark Road, south of Route 302 at East Fryeburg

Due to the sequence of land division in Fryeburg, most of the earliest-settled locations fell within the "Great Bend" of the Saco River, including Fryeburg Center, Frye's Hill (the home of the General), Fish Street, Menotomy Road, and the present-day Village. Not until the first quarter of the nineteenth century,

however, did people begin to avail themselves of the rich uplands located south of Kezar Pond, between the Saco River and the Bridgton line. One such family, headed by Elbridge Harnden, established itself south of the East Fryeburg crossroads in clear view of towering Pleasant Mountain.

The Harnden House, probably the second on the site, is a surprisingly sophisticated transitional structure of brick which combines Greek Revival and Italianate elements while following in form the five-bay, two-story structures raised during the Federal period. Of particular note here are the heavy granite window lintels, the finely-worked brick wall surfaces, and the corbelled brick cornice with false corner capitals. In detailing and use of materials, the house bears a certain resemblance to "Academy Hall" (1852-53; see F-20), though whether local builder Ammi Cutter, of Lovell, played a role here, is not yet known. Across the Denmark Road, the Harnden barn boasts a high cellar wall built entirely of split granite, a most significant nineteenth century survival.



F-34. ASA OSGOOD PIKE HOUSE

ca. 1850. Junction of Route 302 and Hemlock Bridge Road (East Fryeburg)

This massive, wood and brick rural homestead was constructed by Asa Osgood Pike, who utilized the structure as a dwelling, store, and tavern. In addition, the East Fryeburg Post Office, established in 1854, was first located here. Influenced by Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate architectural motifs, the house is an intriguing amalgam of stylistic elements and design forms.

Of cross-hall plan, the main block consists of a foursquare, two-storied brick section capped with a wooden attic story whose west gable end displays a closed pediment. Both the south and west walls are five-bayed, with the latter sheltered by a two-story porch with square posts and bracketed cornice. The well-laid brick

walls are broken by windows with finely-cut granite sills and lintels. A large, well-preserved detached barn with both clapboard and vertical board sheathing stands north of the house.

Born in 1822, Asa Osgood Pike was the grandson of James Osgood, Fryeburg's first tavern keeper. Much of his early life was spent at East Fryeburg where he engaged in agricultural and commercial activity. In later years, Pike became an enterprising dealer in lumber, and in 1874 moved to Fryeburg Village where he purchased and subsequently operated the Oxford House hotel. At the time of his death, Pike held several important local positions, including director of the White Mountain Telephone Company, member of the State Board of Agriculture, and president of both the West Oxford Agricultural Society and the Fryeburg Horse Railroad Company.

Directly across Route 302 and fronting the Denmark Road is the vernacular, wood frame, clapboard-covered East Fryeburg Grange Hall, a late nineteenth century structure which symbolizes an important social aspect of local agricultural prosperity. On the opposite side of the Hemlock Bridge Road from the Pike House, the William Hapgood Store is a vernacular frame structure with a partial brick lower story once utilized for commercial purposes. Most likely raised between 1845 and 1850, the structure is an important survivor of practical pre-Civil War building trends. As such, it plays a significant role in portraying East Fryeburg's nineteenth century character.

F-35. EAST FRYEBURG SCHOOLHOUSE

1875. Hemlock Bridge Road, north of Route 302 at East Fryeburg

The East Fryeburg Schoolhouse, the second structure to be built for that purpose north of East Fryeburg proper, is a story-and-a-half, three-bay vernacular building with very simple lines and little ornamentation. The sides of its thirty-seven by twenty-seven foot frame are pierced by windows with six-over-six lights and plain, flat moldings. The facade, facing southwest, features doorways capped with a rather naive attempt at a modillioned cornice, the only gesture towards architectural stylishness. The structure also has simple corner pilasters, cornice returns on the gable ends, and a single end-chimney at the east wall. This Victorian era school remained in use until 1947; it replaced an earlier structure built about 1831.

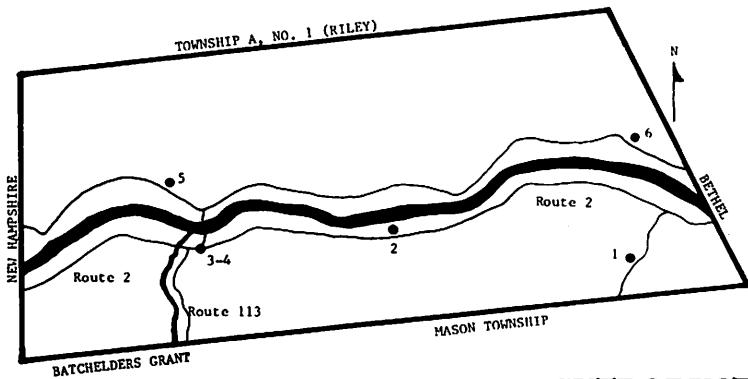
North of the East Fryeburg Schoolhouse and on the eastern side of the Hemlock Bridge Road, the Pike-Sanborn Farmstead (ca. 1840 and later) features a large vernacular Greek Revival house, numerous barns and sheds, and a tall, square wood frame water tower, a once commonplace type that may be the only surviving example in western Maine.

**F-36. HEMLOCK BRIDGE**

1857. "Frog Alley" and Hemlock Bridge roads on old Saco River (NR)

Fryeburg once had seven covered bridges, probably more than any other Maine town. The Hemlock Bridge (one of five in Oxford County today) is the only survivor of that group, and its condition and setting are probably as original as any example extant in New England. Built on granite abutments, the bridge is 116 feet long, has clapboarded, arched portals, and displays a set of supporting "laminated" arches on its interior. The side truss system, by which bridges of this type are identified, was devised by local builder Peter Paddleford, who personally supervised the construction of three other Fryeburg bridges: Weston's (1844-1947), on present River Street; Canal (1846-1933), on present Route 5 south of Fryeburg Center; and Walker's Hill (1848-1936), on present Route 302 between Menotomy Road and East Fryeburg. The Hemlock Bridge was restored in 1961 and is the only remaining covered bridge over the Saco River in Maine.

GILEAD



INTRODUCTION

Bordering New Hampshire and crowned with some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in Oxford County, Gilead retains a largely unspoiled natural setting at the northern edge of the White Mountain National Forest. Purchased in 1772 by Oliver and John Peabody of Andover, Massachusetts, and John and Samuel Bodwell of Methuen, Massachusetts, the town was originally known as "Peabody's Patent," after the family whose landholdings made up three-quarters of the town in a 1791 mapping survey. The first settler, James Pettingill, probably arrived in 1780; on August 4, 1781 he was killed by a small group of Indians who had attacked Sudbury Canada (Bethel) the previous day. Due to this event and the Revolution itself, little was done to establish a community until the late 1790s. By 1800, only twelve to fifteen families resided here.

Having gained slowly in population and agricultural development, the former plantation was incorporated as the town of Gilead in 1804; the name is said to have come from a large outcropping of Balm of Gilead trees in the center of the town. Though the limited expanse of intervale land along the Androscoggin provided sites for small farmsteads, the heavily forested valleys on both sides of the river were sought out by woodsmen by the mid-nineteenth century. Soon after the construction of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad through the town in 1851, the appearance of numerous steam-powered mills producing spool stock, boxes, and staves took place at Gilead Village. Like Bethel to the east, Gilead soon became a popular summer retreat, located as it was at the edge of the central White Mountain area. In 1891 the Wild River Lumber Company was organized, and a railroad line (1891-1904) was built from Gilead into Batchelder's Grant in Maine and Bean's Purchase in New Hampshire. The village of Hastings, with its mills, store, boarding house, and school, existed for a brief period several miles south of Gilead Village. Major changes in local population patterns brought about by the

decline of agriculture and the rapid improvement of transportation has caused Gilead to return to a more tranquil condition.

Over the years, Gilead has lost many of its most important landmarks, including a unique wire suspension bridge over the Androscoggin River, and a massive Paddleford covered bridge over the Wild River, just west of Gilead Village. One of the county's most significant early hostelryes, the Peabody Tavern (NR) remains, however, as a remarkable survivor from western Maine's formative years of commercial development. Gilead's present population of some 200 people is one hundred less than a century ago.



G-1. BENNETT-MASON HOUSE

ca. 1830. Bog Road off Route 2

In the context of Gilead's remaining nineteenth century architecture, the Bennett-Mason House ranks as one of the finest center-chimneyed Capes extant in the town. Its five-bayed facade exhibits a sidelighted doorway capped with a pedimented entablature, and windows of six-over-six paned sash. The building's frame, like that of Capes of similar age in the general vicinity, is very high-posted. Well-sited on a knoll above the road, the house has a connected story-and-a-half frame ell and detached mid-nineteenth century barn. The house may have been built by Abraham Bennett, whose son Daniel Ormsby Bennett lived here in 1880.

West of the entrance to the Bog Road is the Mason Farm, a connected farmstead begun in 1825-30 which now displays Greek Revival decorative trim. The farmstead is still operated by descendants of the original owner, Moses Mason.



G-2. PEABODY TAVERN

ca. 1800. Route 2 (NR)

The most historic and architecturally significant structure in Gilead, the Peabody Tavern is an L-shaped frame building constructed around 1800 for Thomas Peabody, an early settler who came to Gilead from Bridgton in 1798. Erected with the help of local carpenters, the two-and-a-half story tavern has a "quarter-hipped" roof, formed by the intersection of two gabled roofs. This particular construction feature, unusual for this remote location and late date, may be seen on a concentration of York, Maine, houses, all of which date to the first half of the eighteenth century. The tavern has south and east elevations of five and seven bays, respectively, with windows displaying twelve-over-eight paned sash. Though the large interior chimneys were removed long ago, evidence of early moldings, paneling, and stenciled walls remains.

In the period between the original grant of 1772 and incorporation in 1804, Gilead was called "Peabody's Patent," in honor of several men by that name who were among the petitioners. One of these men, Lieutenant John Peabody, Thomas' father, participated at the siege and capture of Louisbourg in 1758, at the taking of Fort Ticonderoga in 1759, and in the Revolution as captain of a company that marched from Andover to Boston at the news of Bunker Hill.

A few yards west is the Peabody Cemetery, containing the graves of several members of this influential family, including Thomas' son John, who became a prominent lumber manufacturer and served as a justice of the peace, member of the state legislature, and captain of the local militia.

An important stage stop on the route from Portland, Maine, to Lancaster, New Hampshire, the Peabody Tavern provides an important link with the formative years of transportation and commercial activity in the White Mountain region.



G-3. GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD SHED

1880s. Route 2

This modest clapboarded structure located alongside the tracks of the Canadian National Railroad is the last remnant of Gilead's heyday as an important railway stop on the route from Portland to the White Mountains. The one-story building stands just east of the site of Gilead's hip-roofed railroad station, razed many years ago. The railroad shed displays flared eaves and elaborated window surrounds.

During the second half of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries, Gilead Village contained a number of stores, boarding houses, and hotels, as well as a church and many well-kept homes. At the turn-of-the-century, this small county hamlet near the New Hampshire border was also the northern terminus of a railroad line that ran from the lumbering community of Hastings, located several miles south in the Wild River valley. After vast amounts of timber were cut and removed, the "Wild River Railroad" ceased operations, and the extensive buildings at Hastings were dismantled.

Due in part to changing patterns of industry and agriculture, along with the ending of passenger rail service, Gilead Village declined, assuming its present modest proportions by the time of the second World War.

G-4. TOWN HALL

ca. 1875. Railroad Street

A vernacular structure of local importance, the Gilead Town Hall is a good example of a rural public building erected to house the affairs of a small inland Maine community. Built sometime in the 1870s, the story-and-a-half frame structure has a simple clapboard exterior and six-over-six light windows. A single



large room, entered from the outside via double-doors at the center of the facade, contains rows of windows on both of its long side walls. One of the few public buildings remaining in the village, the structure was replaced by more modern facilities (to the east) several years ago.

West of the Town Hall, beyond a road which leads to the Androscoggin River crossing, is the two-and-a-half story, late nineteenth century Leighton House. Built by a prosperous village store owner and mill operator, the five-bayed residence with first story porch and simple exterior trim remains one of the least-altered village structures dating before 1900. Beyond it, to the west, is the Gilead Library, housed in the one-room former Gilead Village School.

G-5. TWITCHELL-WHEELER HOUSE ("Whipoorwill Farm")
ca. 1820. North Road

This high-posted Cape with two interior chimneys is significant as a well-preserved example of an early Gilead homestead, one which is probably the oldest house in that part of Gilead north of the Androscoggin River. Now minus its barn and outbuildings, the structure nevertheless conveys an accurate picture of its place and time. The exterior retains its multi-paned windows and sidelighted entrance doorway.

A few miles east, the Heath Farmstead displays a vernacular Victorian house constructed by Archibald Heath in 1902, and a large gable-roofed barn (ca. 1817) that is the oldest structure of its type in the town. Until its replacement by the present two-and-a-half story house, a low-posted Cape built by early settler Cutting Bennett occupied this site.

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G-6. CHAPMAN HOUSE ("The Bungalow")

1918. North Road

Designed by the Portland architectural firm of Googins and Clark, and constructed in 1918, this hip-roofed, single-story house has shingle-covered walls and exposed roof rafters, both common features of the Bungalow style. Located in

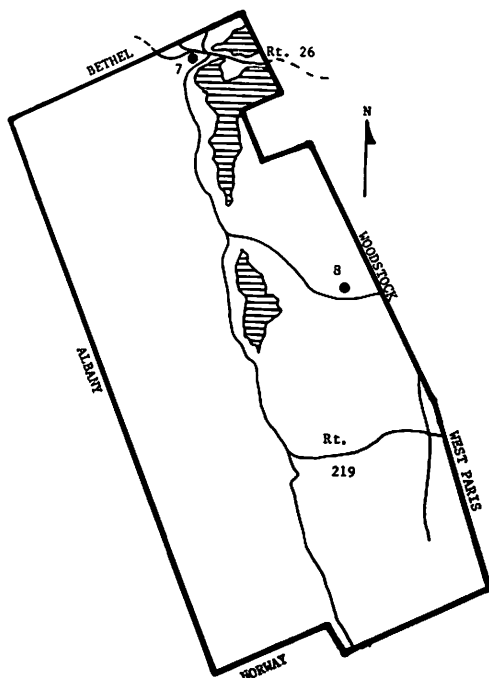


a secluded spot not far from the Androscoggin River, the house replaced a Cape with outbuildings erected by Eliphaz Chapman, Jr. in 1803 and destroyed by fire in 1912. Perhaps the most prominent nineteenth century member of this family was George Whitefield Chapman, who authored a history of Gilead in the columns of

the *Bethel Courier* in 1860 and published a sketch of the town in book form in 1867. The property remained in the hands of the Chapman family until 1975.

Further west and just off the highway is the Chapman Cemetery, one of several in the town.

GREENWOOD



INTRODUCTION

The town of Greenwood began as three separate grants of land made by the General Court of Massachusetts in 1795, 1797, and 1805, respectively. The second and largest grant, which consisted of 11,520 acres given to Phillips Academy, was large enough to be recorded in 1800 as a "half-township." Located roughly in the center of the county along its east-west axis, the town was first settled by adventurous individuals looking for inexpensive land and undeveloped sites of ample water power for milling. Three years previous to its incorporation as a town in 1816, Greenwood was organized under "plantation" status, but grew rapidly in population as people moved into the interior of the state seeking land for agricultural production. Though some insist the name chosen at incorporation was meant to describe the most prominent physical characteristic of this mountainous township, the choice seems more likely to have been in honor of an early surveyor of this part of the county, Alexander Greenwood.

William Yates, born in Scotland in 1772, came to the southern end of the town

in 1800 and settled on the side of "Patch Mountain" as the town's first permanent resident. He was soon followed by Thomas Furlong, Timothy Patch (for whom the above-mentioned mountain was named), O. Israel B. Fifield, and Simeon Sanborn, the latter of whom built the first saw and shingle mill at "Greenwood City" by 1805. That same year, thirteen families were recorded as residing here, and William Yates replaced his log hut with the town's first frame structure as soon as Sanborn's saw mill was operative.

The manufacture of lumber and spools in Greenwood predates the arrival in 1851 of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad (now Canadian National); the improvement of transportation, combined with the destruction by fire of the village of Greenwood City in 1862, caused a rapid expansion of industry at the village of Locke Mills in the northeastern corner of the town. Though people living outside the bounds of the latter village were long devoted to farming, the abundant source of water power there has historically supported a wide variety of woods-related industry.

Though Greenwood still contains many vernacular farmsteads of design interest, the few structures that reflect "styled" architectural influences are mostly restricted to Locke Mills Village. The Greenwood Historical Society, now actively restoring a modest but typical example of a wood frame mill worker's house there, has also partially restored the Greenwood Cattle Pound (ca. 1835), located on the Old Greenwood Road between routes 26 and 219, just north of the site of "Greenwood City."

Beginning in the early part of this century, Greenwood's several lakes and ponds were developed for their recreation potential, thus giving the town a different character. A century ago, Greenwood contained 838 residents. Its year-round population (enlarged by seasonal residents) in 1980 was 653.

G-7. LOCKE MILLS VILLAGE

Route 26

Standing on both sides of west-running Alder River, the village of Locke Mills was begun in the first decades of the nineteenth century as an outgrowth of the several water-powered mills erected there in 1819 by successful business promoter Samuel Barron Locke, Sr. Previous to this, most of Greenwood's settled areas had fallen in the western and southern part of town with "Greenwood City" established around 1820 as the town's first center of business and social activity. By July of 1840 the village of "Locke's Mills," as it was then called, had grown sufficiently enough to support its own post office (the name was altered to the present "Locke Mills" in 1893) as well as several additional mills and related businesses. With the arrival in 1851 of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, Locke Mills assumed further importance as a local trading center; after the more-southerly village of "Greenwood City" was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1862, new business confined itself wholly to the more northerly of the two settlements. Despite a series of fires which have eliminated all of the nineteenth

century mills here, woods-related industry still forms the financial core of this small Oxford County village.



Union Church

At the north end of the village, next to a hillside cemetery laid out in 1851, is the vernacular Victorian Locke Mills Union Church built in 1883-84. Located on property reserved in the will of Samuel B. Locke, Sr. for a church and cemetery, the wood frame, gable-roofed structure has very tall multi-paned front and side windows, a centrally-located double-doored entry, and clapboard-covered wall surfaces. Atop the roof, above the street facade, is a tall pyramidal-roofed open belfry which further emphasizes the verticality of this late nineteenth century church. A modern wing used for classroom and dining space was erected in 1964-65.

South of the church and opposite the two-and-a-half story vernacular Greenwood Town Hall (1931) are four modest side-hall Greek Revival houses built as workers' housing for those employed in mills which formerly stood across the street. The present Melville House, the most northerly of the group, is also the most elaborate, displaying paneled corner pilasters (with *no* capitals), wooden pediment-shaped window heads, and a heavily bracketed cornice. Built by Samuel B. Locke, Jr. between 1840 and 1850, the house was "company-owned" as late as 1952. At the southerly end of the row, the present Greenwood Historical Society building is a story-and-a-half gable-roofed structure with a three-bay facade. Purchased by the Society in 1980 and currently being restored as exhibit space, the structure also dates to around 1840-50.

Just off Route 26 and east of the Historical Society building is a vernacular Queen Anne style schoolhouse begun in 1890 and added to in 1913 and again

around 1932. Though restrained in both scale and architectural decoration, the building makes use of shingled wall panels and clipped gable ends, both popular Queen Anne decorative features on rural Oxford County structures. The second school to be built at Locke Mills village (the earlier schoolhouse still stands south and on the opposite side of the street, and has been converted to a residence), the building housed sub-primary through eighth grades until 1968 when Greenwood and several other neighboring towns joined with larger Bethel to form a consolidated school system. Used several more years by the lower three grades, the school was closed in the spring of 1981 and is presently in need of an adaptive re-use which will preserve its structural integrity and architectural character.



Aranda G. Tinkham House

Further south and located at the top of a slight rise is the Aranda G. Tinkham House, a steeply-gabled vernacular frame residence with "Carpenter Gothic" detailing. Built between 1865 and 1870, the house was later the home of John F. Dearborn, a local businessman, who immediately after the Civil War converted a nearby woolen mill into a prosperous spool-making establishment. When the mill burned in 1879 (the structure appears erroneously on a map from the county *Atlas* of 1880, the research for which was carried out previous to the mill's destruction), Dearborn moved to the village of Bryant Pond in the adjacent town of Woodstock. The Tinkham House has a narrow, three-bay facade displaying six-over-six paned sash, and an off-centered doorway with framing pilasters and full entablature.

Directly across Route 26 and standing between the highway and Alder River are



John G. Tebbets House (l), Houghton House

two nineteenth century structures, the Moses Houghton House and the John G. Tebbets House, both long-associated with successful mill operators in this small but once-thriving village.

The Houghton House, a story-and-a-half Greek Revival Cape constructed in 1844, is notable for its centrally-positioned inset doorway with heavy pilasters and full entablature. Of architectural interest also is the flush-boarded facade wall, a feature originally meant to resemble stone on earlier, Federal period houses in New England. As seen in Oxford County, flush-boarding appears most often on Greek Revival and Italianate styled houses, though earlier instances of its application exist. In 1857, Moses Houghton purchased several of the mills here, as well as many of the houses, from Samuel B. Locke, Jr., who moved to West Paris Village and built mills that same year. Houghton operated the local grist mill, saw mill, and bedstead factory at Locke Mills until his departure several years later.

The John G. Tebbets House next door displays decorative elements taken mainly from Italianate style models, though the vernacular structure does not approach the formality of Maine houses built as "high style" examples of the motif. Raised about 1870 for Tebbets, who, as a partner of John F. Dearborn (see above), ran mills nearby until 1879, the house has the side-hall-plan arrangement typical of Greek Revival gable-to-the-street houses built in the county. Of particular note here are the paired cornice brackets, denticulated cornice beneath the gable-end eaves, and the paired round-arch windows at the attic level. The house also displays a rather awkward inset corner porch containing a doorway with simple entablature door head matching those used over the six-over-six paned windows.

Directly behind the Houghton and Tebbets houses stood the original saw, grist, and shingle mills built by Samuel Barron Locke, Sr. in 1819. After a fire destroyed the structures in 1841, Locke built further downstream. The old dam at the original mill site may be seen at low water. Locke's son, Samuel B. Locke, Jr., went from

Greenwood to West Paris Village in 1857. He continued the milling tradition begun by his father through the construction of a variety of water-powered industries in the towns of West Paris (then part of Paris), Waterford, Lovell, and Fryeburg.



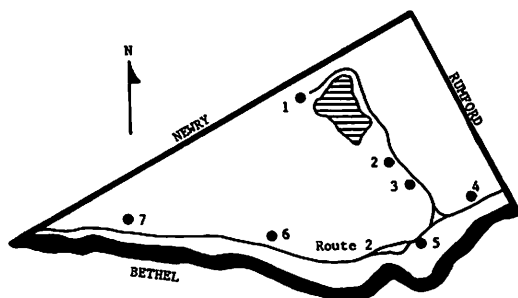
G-8. CHRISTOPHER BRYANT HOUSE

ca. 1810. Rowe Hill Road

This five-bay low-posted Cape was built early in the nineteenth century by Christopher Bryant, who, with his brother Solomon, was the first to settle in the adjacent town of Woodstock. Coming from Plympton, Massachusetts, in 1797, Bryant began a clearing and the following year returned to Oxford County to erect a primitive log hut on his acreage. A few years later, he moved a short distance west into the town of Greenwood at what later became known as the "Bryant Neighborhood." A noted root and herb doctor, Bryant is memorialized in Woodstock's largest water body (also called "Lake Christopher" by local residents) and by Woodstock's largest village, which stands on the eastern shore of "Bryant's Pond."

Bryant's frame house, located just west of the pond named after him, is a typical story-and-a-half Cape with center chimney (in this case a reconstruction that has been positioned forward of the roof ridge). Though the structure has been altered inside, its original exterior lines remain essentially unchanged, conveying an accurate picture of an important rural homestead in this mountainous township.

HANOVER



INTRODUCTION

The seventh smallest town in Maine, Hanover was incorporated in 1843 from two tracts of land, one nearly three thousand acres in extent known as "Howard Gore" for its 1794 purchaser, Phineas Howard, and another of some eighteen hundred acres north of the Androscoggin River and formerly part of Bethel. The name probably originates from the German province of Hanover, from which the family name of King George III also came.

Settled in 1774 by Nathaniel Segar of Newton, Massachusetts, Hanover was largely dependent on agriculture during its first years of existence, but beginning in 1796, the outlet stream from Howard Pond, a large waterbody in the northern part of the town, was utilized for its water power potential. Because of the ten watermills and two tanneries constructed along its course, Hanover Village became a thriving industrial center for much of northern Oxford County during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The last of these mills, a furniture factory, operated until around 1950; unfortunately, none of these important industrial structures remain extant today.

In the 1880s, seasonal cottages began to be built on the shores of Howard Pond, and today the town's summer population increases by some three hundred and fifty people each year. With its reduced commercial activity heavily reliant on seasonal tourism, Hanover has now become a bedroom community for the papermill town of Rumford to the east.

Retaining important examples of rural architecture in basically undisturbed settings, Hanover claims Oxford County's only eighteenth century gambrel-roofed house, as well as the home of Nathaniel Segar, first settler and captive during New England's last Indian raid (1781). In its heyday, the town also supported a prosperous mineral spring establishment and a steamboat company, the latter of which ran passenger and freight excursions on the Androscoggin River from Bethel Hill to Rumford Falls.

The number of permanent residents in Hanover in 1980 was recorded at 256; a century ago that number was just over 200.



H-1. "INDIAN ROCK CAMPS"

1893-1898. Howard Pond Road

One of numerous "sporting retreats" built alongside the county's many lakes during the late nineteenth century, "Indian Rock Camps" is a particularly well-preserved example of its type. Begun in 1893 by William C. Holt, the first structure, named "Deer Lodge," was soon expanded to include a large main camp with dining facilities and five smaller log "cottages," all of which survive in little-changed condition. Opened to the public in 1898 and operated by the Holt family for forty-five years, the camps were later sold and renamed "Morrison Lodge." Though they are now owned privately, "Indian Rock Camps" exist as a valuable reminder of the county's long-standing reputation as a sportman's paradise.

The first cottage on Howard Pond was "Camp Bruin," constructed in 1888 for Fred and Cora Cummings of Norway. It was regrettably destroyed by fire in 1975.

H-2. PHINEAS HOWARD HOUSE

ca. 1795. Howard Pond Road off Route 2

Hanover Village's most historic structure, this late eighteenth century low-posted Cape was once the home of town patriarch Phineas Howard, who purchased much of what is now Hanover from Massachusetts in 1794. Known as

"Howard Gore," this triangular-shaped three thousand acre tract was created after the towns of Bethel, Newry, and Rumford were laid out; in 1843, it was combined with some eighteen hundred acres north of the Androscoggin River in Bethel to form the present town of Hanover.

Phineas Howard came to Sudbury Canada (Bethel) from Temple, New Hampshire, in 1793, and after purchasing the Gore, erected a house and, soon after, a grist mill (1796), the first of many such water-powered industries that were to make Hanover Village a thriving commercial center in the nineteenth century. When the plantation of Howard Gore was organized in 1812, Howard assumed an influential position in local governmental matters, a capacity he filled until shortly before Hanover's incorporation.

Moved to this hillside site in the 1850s from a location near the outlet of Howard Pond, the Howard House retains its basic story-and-a-half form, though numerous changes have been made to its interior, most notably the elimination of its large center chimney. Several of the rooms retain examples of artificial graining, probably done early in the nineteenth century. The Howard House is important in recalling Hanover's earliest period of settlement.



H-3. GARDNER ROBERTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

ca. 1884 and later. Howard Pond Road off Route 2

This modest Victorian library, originally constructed as Hanover's post office by local master carpenter J. Gardner Roberts, has a hipped roof and inset porch with turned supports and jigsaw-cut ornamentation in a frieze band. When opened to the public in 1895, the structure was called the "Pierce Library," after Alfred Pierce of Lexington, Massachusetts, who donated over a hundred volumes to the small collection. Early in this century, an addition was built to the right of the

three-bayed facade. In 1924, the Library was renamed for its builder, a prominent Hanover resident who died that year.

On a rise above the Library, and on the same side of the road, is the Jonathan A. Virgin House (ca. 1850), a substantial Greek Revival Cape with rear ell and attached gable-roofed barn. The pedimented gable ends, wide entablature, and sidelighted entrance door framed in paneled pilasters are of design interest. Jonathan A. Virgin owned and operated several water-powered mills on the Howard Pond outlet stream nearby. He was also a director and stockholder in the short-lived Androscoggin Steamboat Company.

Below the Library, on the opposite side, is the Howe-Stearns House, an interesting combination of an 1831 center-chimneyed Cape attached to a ca. 1879 two-and-a-half story vernacular Queen Anne addition. Under the ownership of Arthur Graham Howe, the Hanover post office was located here from 1920 to 1940.



H-4. EZRA SMITH HOUSE

ca. 1802, 1817. Route 2

The most substantial Federal style house at Hanover Village, this five-bayed example is actually two houses joined together at right angles. The earlier portion, a three-bayed structure which originally faced the road and now serves as the rear ell, was constructed by Stephen Estes around 1802. It has been altered by the removal of its massive center chimney, by the addition of pairs of windows framed together, and by the remodeling of its once-pilastered doorway. The larger, front-facing section with extended eaves and a fine doorway with delicate moldings and a broad, semi-elliptical louvered fan, was built in 1817 by Ezra Smith, an early storekeeper at nearby Rumford Point Village; Smith purchased this

property from Estes around 1811. Before his death in 1846, Smith also served in various capacities for the plantation of Howard Gore, including the roles of clerk, moderator, assessor, and tax collector. Shortly after the Second World War, the interior of the house was divided into apartments.

West of the Smith House is the vernacular Knights of Pythias Hall, built in 1882 as a meeting place for the "Hanover Union Society," a community group formed to provide aid for local Civil War veterans. Constructed by master carpenter J. Gardner Roberts, who built numerous houses and barns in the town, the hall was sold to the Oxford Bear Lodge in 1937. Further west is the former Russell's General Store, a village landmark and post office site which may date to the 1870s.



H-5. NATHANIEL SEGAR HOUSE ("Sunflower Farm")

ca. 1780, ca. 1910. Route 2

The basic fabric of this much-altered eighteenth century Cape may date as early as 1780, one year after the first framed house was built in Bethel (Sudbury Canada), of which this site was a part until Hanover's incorporation as a town in 1843. Nathaniel Segar came to this location near the Androscoggin River from Newton, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1774 and, like other settlers of this period and region, probably erected a crude log hut or cabin to serve as temporary shelter. Rightfully considered among the first to clear land in Bethel, Segar returned to Massachusetts later that year and enlisted in the Continental Army. Discharged with the rank of lieutenant in January 1779, Segar spent that summer improving his Maine farmstead but once again returned to Newton to spend the winter. Upon his return the following year, Segar undoubtedly erected the present structure. While working in the vicinity of Bethel Hill Village on August 3, 1781, Segar and several others were captured by Indians, taken to Quebec, and held

prisoner until late the next year; tradition gives this event as the last Indian raid of any consequence in New England.

Spared by a disastrous flood which in 1785 removed most of the early low-lying houses in the upper Androscoggin River valley, the Segar House was extensively remodeled around 1910 when it became "Sunflower Farm," a roadside inn with nearby guest cabins. Little changed since that time, the center chimneyed structure, now with extended eaves and broad shed dormer, is one of northern Oxford County's oldest and most historic houses.

A short distance west, on a bypassed section of old Route 2, is the Bartlett-Roberts House (before 1818, ca. 1844), a massive, center-chimneyed structure originally built by early town settler Moses Bartlett, Sr. Its steeply-pitched roof, six-over-six paned sash, and sidelighted Greek Revival doorway probably date from the 1840s when the house was purchased by James Gardner Roberts, Sr.



H-6. JESSE DUSTON HOUSE

ca. 1780. Route 2

The Jesse Duston House is significant as the county's only surviving eighteenth century gambrel-roofed house. Erected around 1780 by Sudbury Canada's first house carpenter, the asymmetrically-arranged framed building is an important representative of a house form adopted in Maine around 1725 with the William Pepperrell House at Kittery Point. Jesse Duston settled north of the Androscoggin, in what is now Hanover, in 1778. One of the early founders of Fryeburg, he later became active in building many of the first houses in the eastern portion of what was originally Bethel. In 1782, shortly after the house's construction, Duston's wife gave birth to the first white male born in the township. In 1803, the first river ferry in the area was established by the Duston family between this site and the

Josiah Bean House (see B-5), on the southern side of the Androscoggin. It remained in service until 1829.

Now sheathed in a modest coat of dark siding, the Duston House displays a later, pilastered Greek Revival doorway with full height sidelights. The randomly-spaced gabled dormers projecting from the steep lower slope of the gambrel roof, as well as the present large-paned sash, date from an even later period.

East of the Duston House is the ca. 1820 farmstead of Adam Willis. Its tightly-clapboarded barn and low-posted Cape are particularly good examples of early nineteenth century rural architecture. Further east is the Benjamin F. Stearns House, a slightly remodeled Cape which dates to around 1840. Across the road is the Hanover Cemetery, a large graveyard in which are buried Nathaniel Segar and Phineas Howard, Hanover's most noteworthy early residents. The oldest stone here marks the grave of Elhanan Bartlett who died in 1790.



H-7. CHARLES BARTLETT FARMSTEAD

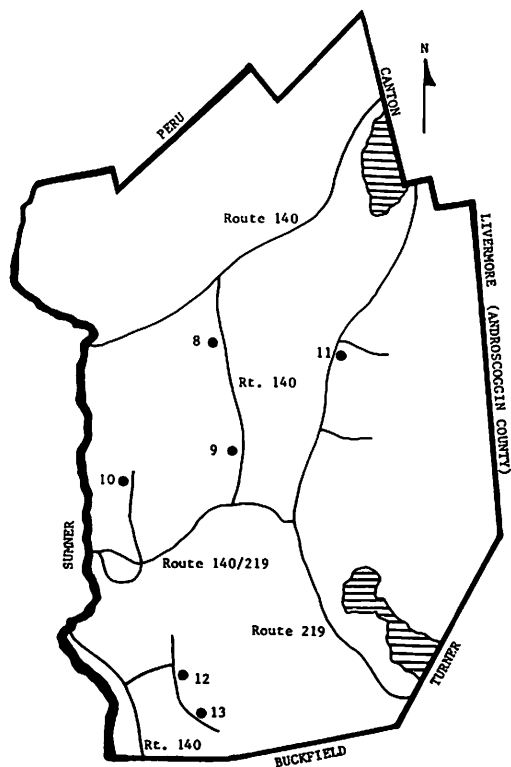
ca. 1809 and later. Route 2

Important as a relatively intact nineteenth century farmstead and for its historic associations with the operator of one of the area's early river ferries, the Bartlett Farmstead consists of a main two-and-a-half story five-bayed Federal style house with attached ell and three adjacent detached barns. Begun by Peregrine Bartlett around 1809, the farmstead passed to his sixth son, Stephen, who in 1830 established a river ferry on the Androscoggin directly below the house. Known in later years as "Bean's Ferry" (under the ownership of one, Christopher Bean), this once-common method of crossing the county's largest river remained in service until 1910. Originally constructed with a massive central chimney, the Bartlett house was extensively altered during the last quarter of the nineteenth century; the double chimney arrangement, shed dormers, and two-story Victorian porch

on the facade date from this remodeling. Many of the timbers in one of the large barns to the west were salvaged from the Hemlock Island Bridge, which crossed the Androscoggin nearby during the short period of 1866 to 1869.

A mile west is the Joshua R. Howard Farmstead (ca. 1890 and earlier), which displays a large vernacular Queen Anne style house attached to a massive, gable-roofed barn. Another, smaller barn stands a short distance away.

HARTFORD



INTRODUCTION

Known in its plantation period as "East Butterfield" or "Number Seven," Hartford was the subject of a petition by Samuel Butterfield and others of Dunstable, Massachusetts, in January 1781. The group of land speculators requested permission from authorities in Boston to begin a new settlement here, but it was not until 1786, after two surveys of land now encompassing the towns of Hartford and Sumner (then known as "West Butterfield") were made, that a "Deed of Agreement" was signed. After several more petitions and an influx of first families, the plantation (which originally included the present village at East Sumner; see S-14) was incorporated in 1798 as the town of Hartford (after Hartford, Connecticut). Some of the first settlers were members of the Robinson, Thompson, and Butterfield families.

Predominantly a farming community during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Hartford had its first road laid out from Buckfield through the whole length of the township and on to New Pennacook (Rumford) before 1788. As soon as saw mills were built (the first was undoubtedly that constructed by Increase Robinson at East Sumner Village in 1784), framed houses began to appear, and the beginnings of Hartford's several small village clusters became a reality. Around 1825, Winslow Hall came to Hartford from Buckfield and erected saw and grist mills a short distance north of present Route 219 on Route 140. The settlement that grew up around the mills became known as "Hall's Mills," but in later years was changed to Hartford Center due to its geographic location. In 1868 the Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad passed through Hartford, and two depots were constructed; that for the East Sumner and South Hartford area still stands a short distance south of Route 219 on the Depot Road. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, agricultural production was supplemented by numerous small businesses, including a brickyard, corn shop, tannery, mineral spring, and numerous apple orchards. However, the number of working farms in the town today has dwindled to a mere handful, and with the removal of the railroad tracks in 1950, Hartford became increasingly dependent on other communities for its economic stability. Though it retains much of its rural character, the town no longer claims an active social center, as compared with its more prosperous nineteenth century condition.

Hartford's history is today preserved by both the Hartford Historical Society and the Hartford Heritage Museum, the latter headquartered in the Irish Store, one of two properties in town currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hartford's population in 1880 stood at 863 individuals; a century later it had dropped to 480.

H-8. PARSONS FARMSTEAD

ca. 1816 and later. Route 140 north of Hartford Center

This connected complex of buildings, its main block an exemplar of the high-posted Greek Revival Cape as seen in the county, was the settlement farm of militia Colonel Daniel Parsons, who served in the War of 1812 and then began his farmstead on this site. Enlargements and alterations by three generations of the Parsons family following Daniel Parsons have created the farm as it presently appears.

Other interesting examples of Greek Revival Capes in Harford include the Hopstill Bisbee-Dr. Franklin Maxim House on the Robinson Road, and the Howard Farm on the Howard Road in South Hartford, both of which have inset doorways on their facades.

North of the Parsons Farmstead, the Tobin-Bragg Farmstead is another, equally interesting, multi-unit connected wood frame structure.



H-9. JAMES AND ORLANDO IRISH STORE (Hartford Heritage Museum)

ca. 1870 and later. Route 140 at Hartford Center (NR)

This vernacular wood frame structure of two-and-a-half stories represents a common building type once seen in most Oxford County villages. The store section closest to the road may be part of an earlier store recorded on the county wall map of 1858 as being operated by A. G. Tinkham; the 1880 *Atlas* of Oxford County seems to indicate that the carriage house to the rear was built sometime after that date.



Entered through double doors on the gable-end facade, the store has cases, counters, and shelves typical of a general merchandise store of the late nineteenth

century. The floors above, with stair hall and separate entrance on the long, right facade of the building, provided a residence for storekeeper and family. The carriage house is connected to the store by an unusual second story corridor, but otherwise remains separate from it.

The Irish Store was given in 1976 to the Hartford Heritage Society, a local historical group, by James Irish, a descendant of the original proprietors. It is maintained as a museum open to the public on Hartford Heritage Day each June.

To the left of the store is a small Cape, probably an earlier building, with a Queen Anne porch. The small Queen Anne style office building adjacent dates from the turn-of-the-century.

North of the store, on the opposite side of Route 140, is the shingle-covered Town Hall of 1922. The vernacular structure replaced a much larger town meeting place, "Atheneum Hall," which stood on the site from 1871 to 1921 when it was destroyed by fire.

H-10. ORIN ROBINSON HOUSE (Town Farm)

ca. 1825. Robinson Hill Road north of Route 219

This simply finished high-posted Cape with central chimney and dormered ell was Hartford's town farm from 1885 to 1933. A single room in the second story seems to have been used as a jail, with indications that it had barred windows and a barred door. The house's main entrance doorway exhibits a vernacular Federal style emerging into the Greek Revival. A related treatment is found on the doorway of the low-posted, broad-roofed Bridgham Cape on Route 140 in South Hartford. Though some changes have been made, these two Capes and the Bard House on the Sam Annis Road (see H-13) retain in their exterior appearance elements of their original design, which other equally venerable houses in Hartford have lost.

H-11. HARTFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH ("Methodist Episcopal Church")

ca. 1830 and later. Church Street off Route 219 at East Hartford

Built in another location for the local Baptists, this small church structure was moved to this site in 1868 to serve the Methodists. A gable-roofed building with Greek Revival corner boards and cornice, the church is quite similar to the East Bethel Church from the same era (see B-3). Built to serve a small rural congregation, the Hartford Church has a small Queen Anne tower added after a cyclone touched down in 1892, removing the building's roof. The single, central entrance doorway seen today may have replaced a two-door arrangement, also reminiscent of the Bethel building.



H-12. DAVID WARREN HOUSE

ca. 1805. Sam Annis Road off Route 140 (NR)

This substantial, two-and-a-half story, center-hall house is significant as a transitional type falling between the heavier Colonial or Georgian houses of the mid-eighteenth century and the lighter designs of the later Federal period. Retaining its two massive interior chimneys and a fine late Georgian doorway with an elaborated entablature and framing pilasters, the clapboard-covered house may have originally been hip-roofed, a roof form usually associated with early Federal building in Oxford County. Within, seven fireplaces, including one with a beehive oven, are intact. Wide-board wainscoting and simple paneling on fireplace walls also remain, and one room on the second story has a deep ceiling molding, apparently original.

David Warren moved to Hartford from Buckfield in 1805. A veteran of the American Revolution, Warren later served eleven terms as a representative to the Massachusetts General Court and was justice of the peace in Hartford. His grandson, Frank L. Warren, who also lived here, was active in local politics and served a term in the Maine legislature.

H-13. WILLIAM F. BARD HOUSE

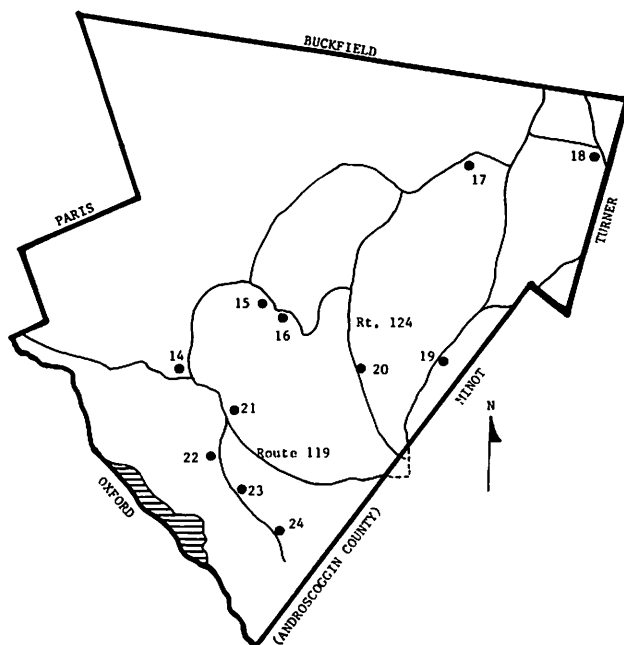
1790s. Sam Annis Road off Route 140

Probably Hartford's finest surviving early Cape, the William F. Bard House is a simply finished small frame structure with central chimney and pilastered doorway with transom light. The Bard family is recorded as living in this part of the town as early as 1786. The main, story-and-a-half section of the house retains several notable early features, including original window openings exhibiting nine-over-six paned sash, and vertical and horizontal boarding and wide-board



wainscoting on several walls. The ell, with its two-over-two paned sash, was modernized into a kitchen late in the nineteenth century. The large barn, once attached to the house by a series of sheds, was rebuilt into the present gambrel-roofed form early in the twentieth century.

HEBRON



INTRODUCTION

Situated in the southeastern corner of Oxford County, the town of Hebron was originally granted in 1777 to Alexander Shepard, Jr. of Newton, Massachusetts, a Revolutionary soldier, civil engineer and an "active promoter of the settlement of eastern lands." As one of the conditions of the grant, Shepard was to provide the General Court at Boston with "an accurate plan of all the late Province of Maine," which requirement was satisfied early in the year 1779. Under a second stipulation to settle at least ten families within ten years of the grant, the first settlers began to arrive in 1779, beginning with John Greenwood whose name is perpetuated by Greenwood Mountain in the center of the town. Known in its earliest years as "Shepardsfield Plantation," the grant also included all of the present town of Oxford, set off as a separate political unit in 1829. Among those who also arrived before the town's incorporation were Asa Bearce, Joseph and William Barrows, and Job Cushman.

In the year 1792, when Shepardsfield Plantation was incorporated as the town of Hebron, a little over five hundred inhabitants had established "subsistence farming" on Hebron's many boulder-strewn hillsides. Though water power was

not plentiful within the township, a site for the first saw mill was established as early as 1785. While the first village of any consequence came to be established at the site of present-day Hebron Academy (founded 1804), the town's nineteenth century economic vitality was due in large part to an abundance of self-sufficient family farms, many of which were able to sell surplus goods to the outside world via the "Buckfield Branch Railroad" after the 1850s. Likewise, small-scale apple production developed and dairy farms became commonplace during the latter part of the nineteenth century, again thanks to the proximity of rail transportation. With competition from agricultural developments in the West, combined with newly-created job markets, especially in manufacturing, Hebron's population dropped markedly as the twentieth century began, and today what few early farmsteads exist are owned mostly by those working outside of the community. Like several other county towns, Hebron managed to capitalize, to a small extent, on its scenic beauty; Greenwood Mountain, one of its highest points in elevation, was the site of a large summer hotel as well as the sprawling Western Maine Sanatorium which operated into the 1950s.

Of Hebron's native sons who left their mark upon the world, the name of Alexander Parris looms above the rest. Born here in 1780, Parris was the first American architect to have a profound effect on Maine, in this case during the Federal period. Though the few extant Maine houses (none in Oxford County) designed by Parris have been considerably altered, his surviving Massachusetts commissions, most notably his Quincy Market complex in Boston, earned him a national reputation.

Though large areas of Hebron's once-prosperous farmland have returned to forest, interesting examples of farmsteads displaying a variety of architectural styles remain from another era. Thanks to the presence of Hebron Academy, the nineteenth century character of Hebron Village has been well preserved; the Hebron Historical Society has recently carried out a series of programs documenting countless aspects of the town's past. In addition, many of Hebron Academy's major buildings reflect the influence of Colonial Revival design in Maine's turn-of-the-century educational architecture. Located on Route 119, Hebron Village is the most nearly intact of the town's three nineteenth century building clusters, which also included "Hebron Center" and "East Hebron."

Hebron's population in 1880 stood at 601 individuals; a century later the majority of Hebron's 665 residents were either connected in some way with the academy's operations, or employed in adjacent, much larger communities.

H-14. HEBRON VILLAGE

Route 119

Hebron's westernmost village, or "Hebron Corner," as it was called throughout much of its early existence, has a serene and unspoiled quality due mainly to the presence of the Hebron Academy campus, which forms the core of this county hamlet. Though most of the extant village structures date from after the Civil War,

important architectural examples from a variety of nineteenth century styles co-exist in a well-preserved rural atmosphere. Established soon after 1774 when a road from Bakerstown (now Minot) to Paris was opened, the village contained a store, school, post office, church, and academy by the year 1825.



Hebron Trading Company

Standing on the southwest side of Route 119 is the Hebron Trading Company, a wooden vernacular Victorian commercial structure built as a store for H. L. Melcher and Company about 1900 on the site of the Sargent Gymnasium opposite. Moved to its present site in 1928, the building features a broad-gabled, five-bay, clapboarded facade with returning cornice in the form of a pent roof. The first story also displays a series of randomly placed window and door openings which continue in a one-story addition off the north wall (now utilized as the village post office). The tall brick chimney, which one might expect to find on a factory rather than a wooden commercial structure, is actually part of a heating plant installed in the basement when the building was relocated; a large conduit connects with the nearby gymnasium, whose basement contains the first indoor swimming pool constructed at a county educational facility. The Hebron Trading Company has been owned by Hebron Academy since 1928.

The massive brick Sargent Gymnasium at the junction of Route 119 and the Buckfield Road was constructed in 1928-29 from plans by architect Albert L. Dow of Boston. Of Neoclassical character with design elements taken directly from Georgian and Federal style models, the building has a main facade containing a recessed entrance wall framed by a colonnade composed of four Doric columns embraced by *antae*. Among its outstanding architectural features are multi-paned windows (many set in round-arch openings), belt courses, modillioned cornice, and elaborate roof balustrade. Inside, the cavernous spaces devoted to athletic pursuits contrast sharply with the more formal entrance lobby containing wall murals executed in the fall of 1929 by Monmouth artist Harry H. Cochrane.

Directly across the Buckfield Road, the two-and-a-half story portion of the vernacular Herbert T. Glover House, long the site of a local livery stable, was built in the late 1880s, at a time when the academy was undergoing a major period of expansion. Typical of county homes that have remained under the ownership of a single family for long periods of time, the Glover House began as a story-and-a-half wood-framed Cape (ca. 1820), which was subsequently moved back to become the ell of the present five-bay, gable-roofed, double-chimneyed house raised some seventy years later. When the wooden three-and-a-half story Bellevue House (on the site of Sargent Gymnasium), containing a store, post office, and hotel/dormitory for students, burned on a frigid January night in 1900, the Glover House was saved only through the efforts of Hebron students who mounted ladders and kept the structure soaked with water. The broad, two-storied, multi-windowed bay and the open porch on the west and south sides were added about 1903. Wide asbestos siding now masks the original clapboard exterior and reduces the effect of the entablatured window surrounds. Notable features of the older portion include windows of sixteen-over-sixteen paned sash, and several inner walls constructed of brick.



Barrows House

North of Sargent Gymnasium, the brick Barrows House (1815), also known as the "Founder's House" or "Old Brick," was the second Hebron home of academy founder "Deacon" William Barrows. The nearly foursquare, two-storied, Federal style house replaced an earlier three-story wood frame dwelling which, previous to its destruction by fire in December 1814, had served as the Deacon's home and as a boarding place for students. Barrows came to Hebron (then Shepardsfield) from Plympton, now Carver, Massachusetts, in 1779 following an active enlistment in Washington's Army, and in the first years of the nineteenth century had strongly advocated an academy for the small but growing community.

Still in the possession of Barrow's descendants, this handsome but modestly-

scaled brick house features a symmetrically-arranged five-bay facade with a narrow entrance door capped by a semi-circular glass fan. Its low hipped roof is flanked by tall end chimneys which are reconstructions of the originals. About 1850, a wooden addition was made to the rear, nearly doubling the size of the house. Also added at that time were broad verandahs surrounding the entire structure; these later additions were completely removed in 1978, thus returning the structure to its original appearance. The finest Federal style residence in the town, the Barrows House is also important as one of the most architecturally significant brick houses of its period in the county.

The original Hebron Academy building (the first of four) was erected in 1803, largely through funds provided by Barrows; it stood at a spot north of the present Barrows House and east of Sturtevant Hall. A single story wood frame structure of fifty by thirty feet, the Academy had two rooms divided by large folding doors which were opened when it was in use for "declamations" or public worship (there was no church structure in the town until 1820). When the Academy burned in 1819, a meeting was held in the north corner front room of the Barrows House to decide its future. A movement to relocate the institution in the county shire town of Paris was defeated, thanks to an eloquent and moving speech by Deacon Barrows (the pro-Paris faction was led by Stephen Emery, a former preceptor at Hebron Academy for two terms in 1817; he had recently opened a law office at Paris Hill Village). A second academy building, built of brick and located on the same spot, stood until frost damage to its poorly constructed foundation required its replacement in 1847. The third academy building, a brick structure with projecting pavilion, tower, and open belfry, was used until Sturtevant Hall (see below) was completed in 1891.

Beside the Barrows House is Atwood Hall, completed in 1910 and one of four buildings on the academy campus designed by distinguished Maine architect John Calvin Stevens of Portland. Typical of educational architecture built in the Colonial Revival style, Atwood Hall embraces a symmetrical plan featuring bands of multi-paned windows and centrally placed pedimented entrance doorways piercing walls of well-laid brick. Three stories high with a half basement story, the structure is crowned with a denticulated and modillioned cornice surrounding a flat roof. Standing on the site of a wooden dormitory known as the "Trustee House" (burned 1899), Atwood Hall was dedicated as the academy's first dormitory exclusively for boys by John D. Long, a Buckfield native and Hebron graduate who later served as governor of Massachusetts (1880-1882) and U.S. secretary of the navy (1897-1902). Remodeled inside in 1947, the building perpetuates the memory of academy trustee William H. Atwood.

The Hebron Community Baptist Church, which stands further north on the Buckfield Road, began under a Baptist congregation formed in August of 1791, a year before the town's incorporation. Local church services were held for many years in the first academy building, but with its destruction in 1819, the need for a more permanent home was recognized. A church of the meetinghouse type, with galleries, high-backed box pews, and a "two-story pulpit," the first building was erected on the present site in 1820; this structure was considerably altered and



Community Baptist Church

enlarged in 1891-92 under plans partially conceived by architect John Calvin Stevens. During this major renovation, the roof was raised, a four-story corner tower with pyramidal roof was added, and a two-and-a-half story vestry wing was constructed off the west wall. At the same time, new pews, memorial windows, and interior woodwork of "golden oak" drastically transformed the interior's appearance. Renovated a second time in the 1950s, the structure assumed its present character by 1960 when a high portico with balustrade was applied to the facade gable end. Designed by John Calvin Stevens II, the portico adds a touch of elegance to a structure whose design is a vernacular interpretation of popular Colonial Revival motifs. As such, the Hebron church is an interesting example of changing tastes in ecclesiastical architecture set in a rural Maine context.



Sturtevant Hall

One of Oxford County's outstanding educational buildings, Sturtevant Hall (NR) is also the most impressive of four Hebron Academy buildings commissioned by Maine architect John Calvin Stevens. Completed in 1891, the rectangular brick building is a fine and well-preserved example of late nineteenth century eclectic architecture, with Colonial Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque motifs dominating. Stevens also chose an impressive site at the north end of an expansive lawn, directly opposite the Principal's House (1889; see below), which he also designed.

In 1886, a fund-raising campaign was begun to replace the old Academy building of 1847 (one of its granite entry steps, located in front of the George Winfield Treat Science Hall, completed in 1960, now serves as a memorial), and under the leadership of the Reverend Charles M. Berry, over \$50,000 was raised by 1889. The largest single contributor was Benjamin F. Sturtevant of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, who gave \$12,500 to the project; it is his name that the building eventually received.

Sturtevant Hall stands three-and-a-half stories high with a hip roof, tall end chimneys, and gable-roofed dormers. The main facade is dominated by a tall tower, square in plan, with an open belfry, large clock face, and delicate Palladian window as part of the decorative treatment. At the tower's base, below a stone plaque bearing the words "STURTEVANT HALL" and Roman numerals for the year 1891, is the building's main entrance consisting of a shallow portico framed by a semi-circular arch in ornamental brick; this latter design element is repeated at a secondary entrance on the east wall of the structure. Designed by the first Maine architect to become a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Sturtevant Hall was a model of its kind when constructed and still provides an inspiring focal point for the now much-enlarged Hebron Academy campus.



Sturtevant House

The brick four-story Sturtevant House (formerly called "Sturtevant Home")

stands on the western fringe of the Academy grounds proper and was built in the summer of 1927 to replace a similar but somewhat more elaborate brick dormitory built on the same site in 1900 and destroyed by fire on February 2, 1927. Like the original building, which was built as a girl's dormitory, the second structure was constructed from the Colonial Revival designs of John Calvin Stevens, but eliminated the all-encompassing hip roof and large dormers used on the first building. The present structure has newly installed windows of one-over-one paned sash, belt courses of brick and stone, and a modillioned cornice topped by a brick parapet. Between two end wings which project forward of the main facade is a one-story porch with paired columns supporting a full entablature with triglyphs and modillions. A two-story kitchen wing, set at an angle off the north wall, is the only part of the original structure that was saved from the 1927 fire.



Stanley Infirmary

Below Sturtevant House and next to Route 119 (Paris Road) is the Stanley Infirmary, a Colonial Revival structure characterized by decorative elements taken directly from eighteenth century Georgian Colonial models. Erected in 1928 from designs by Boston architect Albert L. Dow, the two-and-a-half story brick structure features a three-bay facade with a one-story entry portico displaying paired columns, full entablature, and roof balustrade. Beneath a gambrel roof with a very steeply pitched lower slope appear a wide variety of window treatments, including rectangular openings with eight-over-eight paned sash (capped on the first story by splayed brick lintels with pronounced keystones), oval windows set in a decorative brick surround with granite keystones, and Palladian windows topped by semi-circular outlines of brick. The walls also display belt courses of brick and granite, with that between the first and second stories placed just below the sills of the second story windows. The building is named for Freelan O. Stanley, architect and steam car inventor (in company with his equally famous twin

brother, Francis E. Stanley) who, besides being a major benefactor to the academy, was for twenty-six years the president of its board of trustees.

On the opposite side of Route 119, beyond the large brick Halford Hall dormitory (1967), are two wood frame houses built in the Colonial Revival style; the example at the corner of Route 119 and Everett Lane is the more interesting of the two, being a design from the Portland office of Stevens and Cobb. Completed in 1889, the "Principal's House" (recently renamed the Claude L. Allen, Jr. House after Hebron Academy's headmaster from 1946-1972) features a well-balanced combination of earlier architectural forms within more modern, turn-of-the-century spatial needs. The building has a clapboarded wall surface broken in several places by small bands of windows, in addition to more "traditional" window forms. Constructed by master builder Samuel Freeman, the house has a connected shed and barn, the latter of which sports a shingle-covered multi-sided ventilator.

H-15. PACKARD-CUSHMAN FARMSTEAD

ca. 1790s and later. Hebron Center Road between routes 119 and 124

Deacon Reuben Packard and his son, Ichabod, came to Shepardsfield (later Hebron) from North Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in 1780 and began clearing land within their one hundred fifty acre tract in the valley to the west of Greenwood Hill (see H-20). Several years later the present high-roofed, five-bay Cape was begun and was later expanded to house Reuben Packard's ten children. Passed down through several generations of the family, the property remains today a well preserved example of an early Hebron farmstead. Located nearby is a large wood frame barn, notable for its unusually trim clapboarded appearance.

H-16. HEBRON GRANGE HALL

1903. Hebron Center Road between routes 119 and 124

This two-and-a-half story gable-roofed vernacular structure was built at Hebron Center in 1903 as the local headquarters of a once-active grange organization. Abandoned some years ago by the grange (which, like many others, had suffered due to declining membership), the tall, wood frame structure standing just to the north of the Maple Ridge Cemetery is a valuable example of a building more notable for its functionalism than for its design qualities. Existing today in a very precarious state of preservation, the Grange Hall contains several rooms and kitchen facilities on the ground floor and a large hall with stage on the second floor. For several years, especially after the nearby Hebron Town House was destroyed by fire, the Hall was used for town meetings. The now-weathered clapboard exterior features windows containing six-over-six lights, and a double-doored entry on the gabled facade.



South of the Grange Hall and beyond the abovementioned cemetery is the story-and-a-half Hebron Center Schoolhouse built sometime around 1830. Like the Grange Hall, the school long ago ceased to serve its original function, but has somehow managed to survive the years looking much like it did when constructed a century-and-a-half ago.



H-17. HEBRON RAILROAD STATION

ca. 1860. Tubbs Hill Road

This modest wood frame vernacular structure with gable roof and clapboard-covered walls is one of a handful of buildings remaining from the days of passenger

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rail service in Oxford County. Built about 1860 for the Portland and Oxford Central Railroad (formerly called the "Buckfield Branch Railroad"; see C-3), the building originally stood a short distance away from its present location, on the eastern side of a still-visible railroad bed. The station continued to be used well into the twentieth century under the Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad, the Portland and Rumford Falls Railroad, and finally, as part of the Maine Central Railroad line. Other surviving Oxford County stations from this line exist at Hartford and Canton.



H-18. EAST HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH

1885. East Hebron

This small but interesting eclectic country church blends Gothic and Queen Anne decorative elements into an unusual whole. The building is located on one of Hebron's many hilltops in the easternmost part of the town; because of its location, the church's congregation has been well represented with citizens from the towns of Buckfield and Turner, and the nearby City of Auburn.

The first Baptist Society at East Hebron was formed in 1799 and, after several struggles to survive, erected its first meetinghouse, the "Good Templars Building" (now destroyed), in 1837. With an increased membership after the Civil War, larger quarters were deemed necessary, and the present structure with its cone-shaped eight-sided steeple was erected within a few feet of the county's eastern edge in 1885. Today, a small handful of members stand vigil over this, the most prominent local landmark. The church has a gable-roofed main body with a one-bay projecting pavilion displaying a double-doored entry capped with an inset Gothic arch. This pointed-arch treatment is repeated over each of the tall four-over-four windows breaking the otherwise plain clapboarded surfaces of the

building. Although repaired several times during its history, the East Hebron Baptist Church retains its original rural Maine character.

H-19. BRIDGHAM-KINSLEY HOUSE

ca. 1825-30. Brighton Hill Road

This one-room-deep brick Federal style house illustrates the best qualities of early nineteenth century domestic architecture as seen in a rural Maine context. The building has the tall, narrow proportions associated with late Federal period houses, though its centrally-located entrance door topped with a semi-circular glass fan is adapted from earlier constructions (seen most often in early or transitional Federal style houses in the county, this design feature is also evident in Hebron's Barrows House; see H-14). The house has two end chimneys indicating a stylistic, as well as a practical break from the center chimney plan of earlier houses. Without its accessory buildings and minus the open fields that once surrounded the site, the Bridgham-Kinsley House is still an important and somewhat sophisticated link with the decades immediately after Hebron's incorporation.

A short distance south, on the opposite side of the Brighton Hill Road, is the Decoster Farmstead, a U-shaped brick modified Greek Revival house with barn and outbuildings. Built about 1845, the house features a story-and-a-half gable-to-the-street main block with pronounced wooden eaves and returning cornice. Its windows and sidelighted entrance door are capped with heavy granite lintels. A somewhat lower gable-roofed brick ell extends to the south and has an open side porch framed with turned wooden posts and decorative brackets added during a later Victorian remodeling. A gable-roofed clapboard-covered section with proportions similar to the main block completes the assemblage and gives balance to the whole. A large barn across the road places emphasis on the property's agricultural past.

H-20. HOWARD-MASON FARMSTEAD

ca. 1820, 1872. Greenwood Hill Road

One of Hebron's most impressive connected farmsteads, this massive two-and-a-half story house with attached sheds and barn stands at the southern edge of the local prominence known as "Greenwood Hill" for the town's first settler, John Greenwood. Though the house shows evidence of a mid-nineteenth century remodeling in which detailing was added from Greek Revival motifs, the basic appearance of the building is the typical, vernacular form seen in many rural Oxford County farmsteads of the period. The present gable-roofed barn with cupola dates from 1872 as commemorated by large numerals attached to the structure's facade at that time. Though the building no longer serves as the home

of an active farm family, it retains its nineteenth century character while remaining in a largely unspoiled rural setting.

North of the Howard-Mason Farmstead, on the opposite side of the road, is the Western Maine Sanatorium Manager's House, a gambrel-roofed shingle style structure built around 1910. One of the very few remaining buildings at this once-extensive complex (which included large brick dormitories now razed), the Manager's House stands a short distance beyond a pair of massive granite gates which once guarded the main entrance to the Sanatorium grounds.

The road over Greenwood Hill (also called "Greenwood Mountain") was the first (1774) laid out in what later became Hebron. It was the site, in 1779, of the town's first settlement and still affords one of the finest views to be found anywhere in the eastern part of the county.



H-21. GLOVER-MERRILL HOUSE

ca. 1830-40. Route 119

This story-and-a-half brick Cape with a one story brick ell connected to a wood frame shed and barn probably dates to the mid-1830s; evidence suggests that it is the second house on the site, an earlier wood frame structure having been erected between 1818 and 1823. Constructed in the traditional Cape form of materials made on-site, the house nevertheless aspires towards the Greek Revival style. The most obvious applications of the Greek theme may be seen in the inset, sidelighted entrance door, the heavy granite window and door lintels, and the returning cornice, which on the north gable end forms a distinctive pediment. Largely retaining its original nineteenth century appearance, the house has six-over-six paned sash, a single end chimney on the main block, and another chimney on the kitchen ell providing for a working fireplace with bake oven. The smoothly-

laid brick walls and high granite foundation emphasize the feeling of permanence conveyed by this well-preserved Hebron residence.

H-22. TURNER-MERRILL HOUSE

ca. 1850, 1890. Merrill Hill Road

This vernacular Greek Revival, five-bay, high-posted, wood frame Cape with an ell and sheds extending to the rear was constructed on the western side of the original road from Hebron Corner to Minot just before the Civil War. In its size and plan (a gable-roofed barn stands across the road), the building is typical of numerous houses raised throughout Oxford County during the middle of the nineteenth century. Built by local housewright Alvan Turner, whose family owned it until 1869, the structure underwent a series of well-documented "embellishments" in 1890 under the Merrill family, the property's current owner. Among the additions made at this time were the several bay windows (one with an unusual dormer on the half-story above it) and the stick-like wooden entrance portico with pedimented roof and scroll-sawn wooden trim. The double interior chimney arrangement was maintained, but new floors and interior sliding doors of wood were added to improve and "modernize" the house's character. The exterior corner pilasters, wide entablature, and sidelighted entrance door on the five-bay facade are all original features that were retained during the Victorian period reconstruction. While certainly not of great stylistic importance as compared with Oxford County's limited "high style" architecture, the Turner-Merrill House nevertheless conveys an accurate picture of a rural middle-class county home as it evolved during the second half of the nineteenth century.

H-23. MERRILL-HALL HOUSE

ca. 1805, 1870s. Merrill Hill Road

This connected farmstead, originally begun about 1805 as a two-and-a-half story center-chimneyed Federal style house with detached outbuildings, stands across from one of the town's oldest cemeteries in a neighborhood named for the numerous members of this influential Hebron family. Currently in the hands of a descendant of the original owner, this well-preserved example of a large rural homestead was altered in the Italianate style sometime in the 1870s. To what had previously been a five-bay facade were added two-story bay windows in place of the original window pairs to each side of the center bay. The main entrance was likewise altered with the installation of a windowed double-doored entry protected by a small portico with square posts and low-pitched roof. The clapboard-covered ell, which extends to the north, is actually three separate structures which were connected together during the post-Civil War reconstruction of the building. Completing the transformation, the large center

chimney was removed and replaced by two interior chimneys. The detached barn on the property probably dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. For several generations the home of a prosperous family with skills in agriculture, lumbering, shoemaking, and stone cutting, this well-maintained farmstead has served mainly as an orchard farm since 1927.

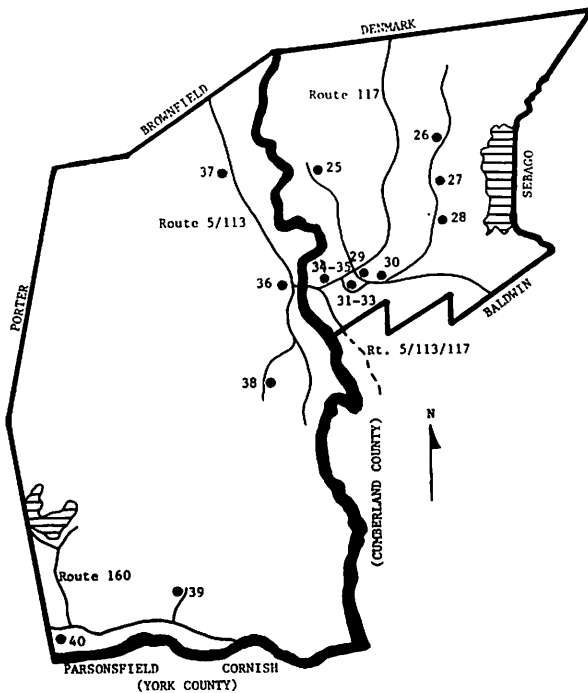


H-24. DANIEL BUCKNAM HOUSE

ca. 1813, 1889, 1978. Merrill Hill Road

This broad-roofed wood frame Cape, built around 1813 at the southern end of the Merrill Hill Road near the Oxford and Minot town lines, is one of the oldest structures in Hebron existing in near original condition. With its massive center chimney, narrow nine-over-six paned windows, and solid entrance door topped with transom light, the low-posted house is a fine example of the modest homes built immediately following the log shelter phase of early county settlement. Owned until the 1880s by the Bucknam family, the house was restored in 1978; during this work, a modern addition to the rear, in keeping with the older section's character, was made. The barn on the property was rebuilt in 1889 using parts from the original barn and another which formerly stood at West Minot.

HIRAM



INTRODUCTION

Before its incorporation in 1814, the town of Hiram was known as "Great Ossipee" and was frequently traversed by local Indians along the "Pequawket Trail," now Route 113. One of the first reported land exchanges for the area is dated 1661, between Lieutenant William Phillips of Saco and "Captain Sunday," an Indian who conveyed "three rocks of hills," now much of the northeastern part of the town. The first actual purchase of land in Hiram intended as a permanent settlement place was made in 1774 by Lieutenant Benjamin Ingalls of Andover, Massachusetts. Ingalls, who was captured at the siege of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in 1745, settled in Hiram near the "Great Falls" of the Saco River, now the site of a hydro-electric plant. The naming of the town is ascribed to three additional early settlers: General Peleg Wadsworth, Timothy Cutler, and Captain Charles Wadsworth. After delving into the Bible, these men chose "Hiram," after Hiram, King of Tyre.

Though Hiram has been, and remains, an agriculturally-based town, it has had

its share of mills devoted to wood products, and factories involved with various stages of food-processing. In 1871, the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad (now Maine Central) was built through Hiram on its way towards the White Mountains, and until passenger service ended in 1958, up to six trains a day made the trip from Portland, Maine, to St. Johnsbury, Vermont. A narrow-gauge railroad, the Bridgton and Saco River, was built in 1883. It ran from "Bridgton Junction" in Hiram to Long Lake in Harrison and was discontinued in 1941.

Hiram's most notable historic resident was General Peleg Wadsworth, grandfather of the poet Longfellow, and a man who is justly considered the "patriarch" of the community. Several of Hiram's oldest houses, most notably the John Watson House (1785) and "Wadsworth Hall" (1800), are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and there are numerous extant examples of structures in all the important nineteenth century styles. While many buildings in Hiram have been subjected to drastic and unfortunate remodelings, all-but-destroying the original character of the structure, several restorations have been carried out which successfully preserve the original design qualities of many of the most significant structures. Historical information on Hiram's architectural heritage is being actively collected by the Hiram Historical Society, now headquartered in the former Mount Cutler School (1883).

The principal villages in the town of Hiram are Hiram Bridge, East Hiram, and South Hiram, the first two of which are frequently referred to as "Hiram Village" or "Hiram." The population in 1880 was 1,452 individuals. In 1980, 1,067 people made their home in this southern Oxford County town.



H-25. JOHN WATSON HOUSE
1785. Outer King Street (NR)

The oldest dwelling in Hiram and a rare example of a Georgian "squire's

mansion" in a rural Maine setting, the John Watson House was built by one of the many Revolutionary War veterans who became the first settlers of this southern Oxford County town.

John Watson arrived in Hiram in 1778 and immediately constructed a crude house near the edge of the Saco River. It was destroyed, like many of the county's earliest homes, in the "fresket of 1785," and Watson quickly chose a more elevated location to the east where he erected the present five-bay, hip-roofed house. Resembling earlier houses which stood in Watson's former abode, Arundel (now Kennebunkport), the finely-proportioned house has a number of interesting original characteristics and several important "transitional" features. The location of a large chimney in the center of the hip-roof and the timber cribbing which supports it, rather than the traditional brick arches normally found in cellars of eighteenth and nineteenth century houses, are both unusual constructions. Indeed, what few eighteenth century hipped roof homes there are in Maine usually have a double chimney arrangement which allows for a central hallway; the Watson House has, upon entering, a small hallway with a triple-run staircase which ascends to the second floor in front of a massive chimney. While the interior contains simple but handsome late Georgian/early Federal woodwork that is contemporaneous with the house's construction, the Federal doorway and the Colonial Revival wings on the exterior are obvious later additions.

Originally called "Intervale Farm," the John Watson House has been aptly described by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, as "the embodiment of eighteenth century Georgian architectural ideals expressed in the forthright terms of rural New England." As such, the house stands as a visible reminder of the pioneer optimism that followed on the heels of the American Revolution.

H-26. PHILIP WENTWORTH HOUSE

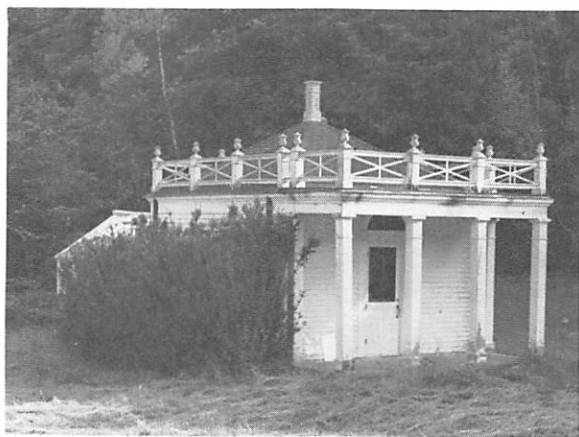
ca. 1850 and later. Hampshire Street

This large farmstead, which appears on the county wall map of 1858 as "D. Thompson," saw numerous alterations in the second half of the nineteenth century; during its heyday, the rambling structure was the centerpiece of a large, well-manicured estate on the eastern slope of the local prominence known as "Tear Cap" (see H-27). To what had previously been a typical five-bay, two-and-a-half story house were added a projecting center pavilion, an octagonal corner tower or turret, and an extensive wrap-around porch. Replacing the original clapboards were the patterned shingles that became a common wall treatment on the asymmetrical Queen Anne houses popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Though much of the property is now returning to nature, the remnants of this once-elaborate estate — the tennis courts, the grape arbors, the silo once used as



an artist's studio, and in particular, the small but elaborately-porticoed greenhouse—testify to what extent high-style Victorian tastes impressed themselves on even the remotest locations.



greenhouse, Wentworth Estate

H-27. WENTWORTH-SMITH HOUSE

ca. 1818. Hampshire Street

This distinguished Federal style house with its fine semi-elliptical fan doorway with sidelights was built in the first decades of the nineteenth century on the eastern slope of a local prominence known as "Tear Cap," supposedly named

when an early settler, Dr. Joseph Benton, observed two women quarreling in that vicinity.

In 1817, a number of people from the Dover, New Hampshire, area settled in this upland location (hence the name "Hampshire Street"), including Moses and Jonathan Wentworth, both connected with the original owner of this well-restored structure. Of particular note are the smaller six-over-six light windows on the second story, the first story having nine-over-six lights; the hip-roofed ell which lies at a right angle to the main block is also of design interest. In recent years the structure has been called "Lower House."

H-28. THOMAS B. SEAVEY HOUSE (Town Farm)

before 1858. Hampshire Street

This broad-roofed, story-and-a-half, center-chimneyed house was once the home of a local resident, but in 1879 was purchased by the town of Hiram for use as housing for the indigent, under the direction of a superintendent appointed by the town. Shown incorrectly on the 1880 map of Hiram as the "Town Hall," this now-abandoned and slowly deteriorating house has an inset porch along the front and on the southern gable end; supporting the long overhanging eaves and the second story gable end are rows of square pillars with inset panels. The Thomas B. Seavey House is an interesting example of architectural adaptation to local conditions and needs. As such, it deserves preservation for both its physical and sociological significance.

H-29. FLINT-HAMMOND HOUSE

ca. 1875. Sebago Road in East Hiram Village

Though somewhat altered, the Flint-Hammond House is one of the most intriguing mansard-roofed houses in Hiram. Whereas most houses in the mansard or "French Style" combined the mansard roof with decorative elements and forms taken from the Italianate style, this particular structure leans heavily on the Greek Revival, exhibiting such features as paneled corner pilasters, a wide entablature above the doorways and below the eaves, and a strongly pedimented, attached barn, now converted into a garage. Missing are the typical bay windows, ornate eaves brackets, and elaborate roof dormers, which in this case have simple gabled roofs with round-headed windows below. Interestingly, this latter window feature is repeated, not only in the smaller-sized dormers on the mansard-roofed ell, but on the second story facade of the barn and again in the pyramidal-roofed cupola. Whereas other Hiram buildings making use of the entablatured Greek pediment have a triangular window at the center, the Flint-Hammond House boasts a round window, a somewhat unexpected decorative accent to a rather eclectic construction.



H-30. JAMES LOT HILL HOUSE

ca. 1860. Sebago Road at East Hiram Village

The James Lot Hill House is an essay in the use of various stylistic elements, mainly in the Italianate mode, by an unsophisticated but highly imaginative builder who raised this square, two-storied house for himself just before the Civil War. Though a number of other Hiram properties can be attributed to Hill, his own home perhaps best represents the kind of small-town optimism that found a unique outlet in the freely interpreted "bracketed" forms of the Italianate style. The house, which is set against a hillside and thus is two-storied on only three of its sides, has walls of beaded horizontal board siding broken by tall windows with

plain segmental-arch window heads. The low hipped roof ends in widely overhanging eaves with single supporting brackets, which in turn are joined at their bases with a bowed decorative molding. In addition, Hill added rusticated wooden quoins at the corners, and a square cupola with a modillioned cornice atop the roof. The two chimneys which rise against and above the sides of the cupola are probably not original, and mar the otherwise unspoiled design. James Lot Hill was active in the area until his move to Iowa in 1887.



H-31. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS BUILDING

1895. Main Street

Hiram Lodge #39, Knights of Pythias, was organized in 1883 and a building constructed on the site of the present three-and-a-half story vernacular structure at a crossroads in East Hiram Village. On the destruction of that first "hall" by fire in 1895, the Lodge hired Alva Ward to build what is probably the largest wooden building extant in Hiram. This massive clapboard-covered frame structure with simplified Greek Revival trim has long served as a center of community activity. Two years after the present building's construction, a large forty by fifty foot addition was made to the rear, creating the effective horizontal massing that gives the building much of its character. The Knights of Pythias Hall is also important as a remnant of Hiram's earlier commercial prosperity, with general store on the first floor, a large hall on the second floor (where dances, theatrical performances, and public suppers were held), and the lodge hall on the third floor, where the windows on the long sides reach up into the entablature below the roof eaves. At the center of the facade and above the second-story windows, the large wooden lodge sign symbolizes the successful union of various local groups in this valuable community landmark.



H-32. SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1915. Main Street and Hancock Avenue

Located on a slight rise above Main Street and across from the sprawling Hiram Village Cemetery, this one-story building with walls of textured concrete blocks was dedicated in August of 1915 and has been a center for cultural activities in the town of Hiram since that time. It was built with funds provided largely by Virginia Barker Jordan of Portland, granddaughter of local businessman Benjamin Barker (see H-36). Also instrumental in organizing Hiram's first free public library were Mrs. Joseph F. Twitchell and Llewellyn A. Wadsworth, local poet and cousin of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Raised on a foundation of concrete blocks with an interrupting belt course below the first story walls, the Library has an inset doorway and multi-paned windows. The most notable feature of the interior is a large fieldstone fireplace with a memorial tablet listing Hiram's veterans of several wars (the war monument on the village green to the east was dedicated to the memory of Spanish-American War veterans in 1947). Of the Library's interesting exterior architectural features, the wide-flaring eaves with exposed rafters and the bands of windows on the first story walls hint of the Bungalow style, popular in simple but functional houses built in this country between 1890 and 1940.

H-33. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ("Methodist Church")

1885. Hancock Avenue

Built by carpenter James Lot Hill as a Methodist Church in 1885, the present Congregational Church combines Queen Anne and late Gothic Revival design characteristics into an eclectic whole. Typical of Victorian county churches of the period, the building features a variety of window types, shingle-covered walls, and

a steeply-pitched gable roof. Of particular note are the large pointed-arch memorial window (moved here from the former Congregational Church of 1872; see H-34) on the main facade, and the metal sheathing on the interior walls and ceiling. Used as a "community church," with services here in the winter and at the Universalist Church (see H-36) in the summer, this small but picturesque structure is very similar to churches extant at North Newry and at Lincoln and Magalloway Plantations.

The Methodist Society in Hiram was established in 1810, and the organization maintained an older "Baptist Union Meetinghouse" (no longer standing) until the present church was built (largely through the financial support of Freeman Hatch of nearby Cornish). Dedicated on October 1, 1886, the church received its bell in July of the next year. The former Congregational Church (see above) on School Street was abandoned in 1950, and in the early 1970s the Congregationalists assumed responsibility for the former Methodist Church, whose society had disbanded.



H-34. MOUNT CUTLER SCHOOL

1883. School Street off Main Street

The cross-gabled, two-and-a-half story Mount Cutler School was built in the fall of 1883, possibly by local builder James Lot Hill. A late example of the Greek Revival style utilized for an educational facility, the structure displays a gabled facade with closed pediment highlighted at the center by a diamond-paned triangular window. This pedimented treatment is carried over to both the smaller east and west gable ends, and the pattern of inset triangular windows, though reduced in size, is also repeated. The roof is surmounted by a closed belfry with a pyramidal roof and weathervane; the simple pointed arches (now painted to

match the wall surface) above the belfry's louvered openings repeat the angular forms expressed by the pediments below.

The building, used solely as a grammar school except from 1922-30 when a two-year high school operated in one room, replaced a similar structure which burned in February of 1883. The Mount Cutler School served the youth of Hiram from 1883-1967 and again in 1974-78. Its second floor now houses the collections of the Hiram Historical Society.

Just west of and next to the school stands the vernacular, double-towered Congregational Church (est. 1826; building dedicated 1872) which has undergone drastic alterations, including the removal of its original windows, belfry, and tall spire. Used after 1950 as a Community House, and now by the local V.F.W., the building has suffered from a remodeling that has left little of its original design character intact.

H-35. MOUNT CUTLER GRANGE HALL

1875. Main Street

The two-and-a-half story Mount Cutler Grange Hall is a plain but important vernacular structure near the western end of Hiram's Main Street; it stands halfway between the villages of East Hiram and Hiram Bridge. Organized in "Young's Hall" (see H-36) on April 10, 1875, the local grange was able to dedicate its present building in late December of that year. Attributed to local builder James Lot Hill, the clapboard-covered frame building has a three-bay facade fronting Main Street (formerly "Bridge Street"). Above the simply entablatured facade windows is a distinctive closed pediment at the attic story level. Once the site of a grange store, the well-preserved structure still displays a fine late-nineteenth century sign above its first story. Little changed over the years, the Mount Cutler Grange Hall remains an important part of Hiram's social fabric.

H-36. "HIRAM BRIDGE" (Hiram Village)

Junction of Route 113 (Pequawket Trail) and Hiram Falls Road

The westernmost section of present-day Hiram Village (Hiram and East Hiram) is located along a wide stretch of the Saco River at the base of Mount Cutler. In years past, this interesting group of structures was also known as "Hiram Post Office" or "Hiram Bridge." The first postmaster, Timothy Cutler, was appointed here in 1801, making this the oldest of Hiram's three major settlements, the others being nearby East Hiram, and South Hiram, adjacent to Kezar Falls Village in the town of Porter. While the structures that stand in East Hiram (also known as "Hatch's Corner" or "Four Corners") also reflect the town's prosperous years from the middle to late nineteenth century, the small cluster of buildings near the Saco (once spanned here by a covered bridge) retains a cohesiveness and



Cotton's Store

character that is representative of Hiram's heyday as an agricultural community.

The focal point of the village and one of the more intriguing vernacular Greek Revival commercial structures in Oxford County is Cotton's Store. Located at the western end of the Saco River crossing, this wide-gabled wooden frame structure reflects numerous changes in a building that may date as early as 1816, when Simeon Chadbourn opened the first store in Hiram on this site. The pediment-shaped window and door heads, and the wide corner pilasters in evidence on the main portion of the structure most likely date from the middle of the nineteenth century, at a time when the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad (now the Maine Central) was just arriving in Hiram (though the Hiram railroad station was torn down in 1961, the tracks still skirt the base of Mount Cutler a few rods west of the store). The Cotton family has operated a mercantile business here since 1886.



Henry Burbank House



Peter B. Young House

South of Cotton's Store and running along the Hiram Falls Road (also shown as the "Cornish Road" on nineteenth century maps) are three houses of historic importance to the village. The first, the Benjamin Barker House (ca. 1820-25), is a Federal style five-bay house which is important for its associations with this early Hiram store-keeper. Next is the Henry Burbank House (ca. 1820 and later), another Federal style house which has seen numerous additions over the years. While it does display a tripart window at the center of the second story, its exterior trim is basically simplified Greek Revival. The Burbank House was once owned by two of Hiram's most enterprising businessmen, John P. and Noah B. Hubbard, brothers who held almost every town office and were representatives in the Maine legislature. The third house, though somewhat altered like the previous two, is an important local example of the "concave mansard" type, and is attributed to local builder James Lot Hill (see H-30). Known as the Peter B. Young House (ca. 1870-80), this three-story structure with paired brackets at the cornice and a different window-head treatment on each floor was the home of one of Hiram's most prominent late nineteenth century families.

Further south and nearer the Saco River on Maple Street are several buildings of local interest. The furthest south and the only structure on the western side of the street is the Almon Young House (before 1858), a two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house with triangular windows in the pedimented gable ends. With a form very similar to the Mount Cutler School (see H-34), the building may have been constructed by James Lot Hill. Once known as "Riverside," and recently damaged by fire, the house was part of an estate owned by John P. Hubbard, prominent merchant and businessman in Hiram.

Standing to the north, along the eastern side of Maple Street, the former Young's Store (ca. 1870-80) and the Hiram Town House (after 1872) are both valuable

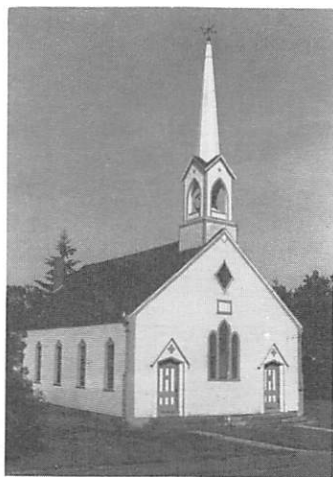
vernacular buildings. The larger of the two, the Young Store, was once a thriving commercial center, with a general store on the first floor, a corn canning shop on the second, and, until buildings were erected in East Hiram, headquarters on the third floor of the local Knights of Pythias and the grange. The steep-sided triangular pediment formed by the continuation of the cornice across the facade gable gives distinction to an otherwise plain structure. The Hiram Town House, which replaced an earlier town house on the same site, is a very simple story-and-a-half structure built in the fashion of many rural public buildings in the agriculturally-based towns of western Maine. Of particular interest are the original voting booths and built-in ballot box within the building.



Tarbox House

Further north and facing west at the intersection of Maple Street with the Hiram Falls Road is the mansard-roofed Tarbox House built between 1870 and 1880, and probably raised by local builder James Lot Hill. Moved around 1910 from a location on Mountain View Avenue behind the Peter B. Young House, the small but well-proportioned house was placed on the site of an earlier, dismantled Cape and connected to its original ell. Long used as a caretaker's home for the Peter Young estate, the house has a patterned-shingle mansard roof with flared or "bell-cast" eaves.

A short distance north of the Saco River bridge stands the Gothic Revival Universalist Church (1871) built by master carpenter Christopher Allen from designs attributed to Portland architect George M. Harding. One of the best-preserved examples of its type in Oxford County, it is also one of the county's few structures in wood of this style. Though built long after the introduction of European Gothic elements and forms for American ecclesiastical architecture, the Hiram structure represents, in its pointed-arch windows and doorways, its stylized wooden corner buttresses, and its tall spire atop a gabled bell tower, the indigenous "folk Gothic" style that saw Gothic elements applied in rather loose



Universalist Church

fashion to many Maine churches. The Hiram Universalist Church, of which the Brownfield Universalist Church of 1880 (burned 1947) was a replica, was originally a slate color, but recently received a coat of white on its clapboard walls and gray on its trim. A tablet on the facade states that the church was presented by Miss Susan Spring as a memorial to her parents, Thomas and Mary Spring (see H-37).

Diagonally across Route 113 from the Universalist Church is the George Osgood House (ca. 1810-30), a well-maintained Cape with simple Greek Revival trim. The house stands on the site of the Timothy Cutler House, erected on the "Lower Grant" in 1788 by Cutler, for whom the nearby mountain is named. The "Mount Cutler House," a rambling Greek Revival hotel built in 1846, stood between the Osgood House and Cotton's Store until its demolition in 1968.

H-37. THOMAS SPRING TAVERN ("Spring Homestead")

1795. Route 5 and 113

This commodious hip-roofed house built in 1795 by Thomas Spring alongside the "Pequawket Trail" (an early Indian path, now Route 113) is the second-oldest residence in Hiram. Typical of large late Colonial/early Federal houses with pairs of interior chimneys (in this case, nineteenth century alterations), the building displays a cross-hall plan in the almost square, main portion of the house.

Revolutionary veteran Captain Thomas Spring was a soldier in the expedition against Quebec under Montgomery, and under Washington at White Plains. He moved to Hiram in 1793 and constructed a log shelter near the site of the present

house. Upon construction of his larger, second home (the first "public house" in Hiram), he opened it as a tavern and here horses were changed and guests lodged on the stage line from Portland, Maine, to Bartlett, New Hampshire. Besides operating the tavern, Spring also held local positions as selectman, magistrate, and captain of the militia.

The "Spring Homestead" remained in the Spring family until 1948. This remarkable eighteenth century survivor illustrates, both in its early interior paneling and later nineteenth century Greek Revival exterior moldings, the straightforward lines of an important regional landmark.



H-38. "WADSWORTH HALL" (General Peleg Wadsworth House)
1800. Wadsworth Road, off Routes 5 and 113 (NR)

Revolutionary veteran General Peleg Wadsworth, described as a man "of liberal education, wealth, and public spirit," purchased a tract of 7800 acres in 1790 in the present town of Hiram. Clearing what became known as the "Wadsworth Grant," General Wadsworth, grandfather of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is recorded two years later as having raised more than 1,000 bushels of corn "on burnt land at a place called Great Ossipee." In 1800 General Wadsworth began construction of what was to become one of the largest houses in the region; today it stands as the third oldest house in Hiram.

Taking advantage of his large land holdings, the General built an up-and-down saw mill powered by an overshot waterwheel on nearby Great Falls Brook, and hired, as master carpenter, Stephen Jewett of Cornish. Though the house was begun in 1800, it was probably not completed until 1807 when Wadsworth took up residence. Besides the house's expansive seven-bay facade, its most unusual feature is the high-ceilinged room entered directly from the front doorway. Here, in a space sheathed horizontally with plain but wide boards, legend has it the local

militia drilled during inclement weather — hence the great height of the room. Interestingly, the stairhall for the spacious dwelling is entered from a side door.

General Wadsworth apparently spent most of his winters in Portland, in what was then the first, and is now the oldest, brick residence in the city (the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, 1785-86). Just beyond the Hiram house, which is also noteworthy as the boyhood summer home of the poet Longfellow, is the family graveyard where the General's remains lie. "Wadsworth Hall" was extensively remodeled in 1875, but as a working farm still owned by the General's descendants, it serves to convey the substantial influence of one of Hiram's most distinguished founders.

H-39. SAMUEL D. WADSWORTH HOUSE

ca. 1810-20. Off Route 32 (Cornish-Kezar Falls Road)

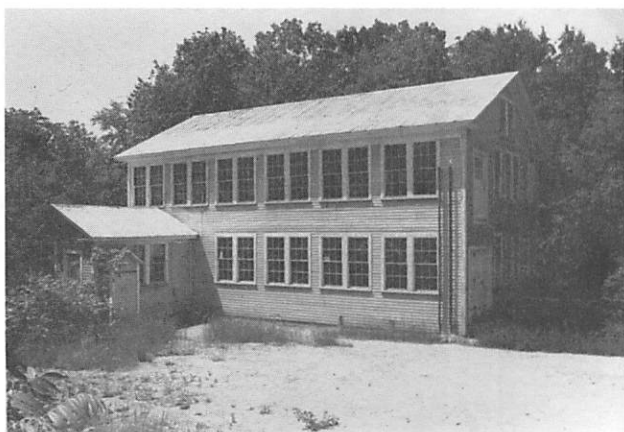
This marvelously sited, massive Federal style house was the home of an early Hiram representative to the Maine legislature. Though the exterior shows several minor changes, including the possible alteration of windows on the now asymmetrically-arranged first floor facade, the well-preserved house conveys an accurate impression of the substantial but unadorned homes erected at the time of Hiram's incorporation as a town (1814).

The approach to the Wadsworth House runs alongside a now-placid stream; the road passes the site of several mills, the earliest of which was built (on "Shookham Brook") by General Peleg Wadsworth around 1819. Although an 1880 map indicates a "saw, stave and shingle mill" here, the stream was early used for driving logs into the Ossipee River and was subsequently known as "Wadsworth Canal Brook."

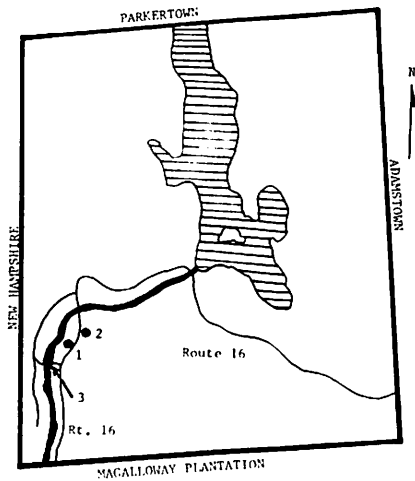
H-40. GLEN BOBBIN MILL

ca. 1920-30. South Hiram

The Glen Bobbin Mill, which consists of two vernacular structures and a long horse-shed-like storage building, is one of the most significant early twentieth century industrial structures to survive nearly intact in the town of Hiram. Located alongside Ridlon Brook, which empties into the Ossipee River a short distance to the south, the mill was operated by Charles and Carlton Fox around 1940 to supply bobbins for the nearby Kezar Falls Woolen Company. A number of mills have stood on or near this site, including a large saw and threshing mill owned by South Hiram's Stanley family in the 1880s. The surrounding hamlet, visually an extension of Kezar Falls Village (Porter) to the west, was first settled just previous to 1820 by members of the Gerrish, Stanley, and Gould families.



LINCOLN PLANTATION



INTRODUCTION

The most northerly of Oxford County's organized townships, Lincoln Plantation is a mountainous area bordering on Coos County in New Hampshire, not far from the Canadian border. Known in its earliest history as "Township 5, Range 2," the tract was sold by Massachusetts to land speculators from New York and Connecticut in 1814. Having failed to encourage settlers into this very isolated region, these men sold the township to Gardner Green and John and William Barron of Topsham, Maine. In 1825 Richard Lombard and his eldest son, Lorenzo, came from Gorham, Maine, as the township's first settlers. They were soon followed by Lemuel Fickett of Cape Elizabeth and John M. Wilson of Westbrook, the latter hired by the Topsham owners as their local agent. Possibly seeing an opportunity to profit, Wilson purchased the remaining unsold lands in 1833; a year later he erected the township's first saw and grist mills at what today is the plantation's only hamlet, "Wilsons Mills" (a name used synonymously with "Lincoln Plantation"). A surveyor of many surrounding townships around the headwaters of the Androscoggin River, Wilson was chosen Lincoln Plantation's first and only representative to the Maine legislature in 1843.

The territory now comprising Lincoln and Magalloway Plantations (the "Upper and Lower Magalloway Settlements") was organized in 1840 as the "Plantation of Lincoln" and named for Enoch Lincoln, a three-term Maine governor in the 1820s; in 1855, the name was changed to "Lincoln Plantation." In 1860, the communities divided, with the more northerly retaining its name and that to the south becoming "Magalloway Plantation."

An area dotted with modest vernacular houses and farmsteads, Lincoln Plantation had both lumbering and small-scale farming as its major nineteenth century economic mainstays. After 1890, an influx of sportsmen into this remote region provided an additional source of income for local residents. With much of its land area now owned by large paper-producing companies, Lincoln Plantation remains an active area for large-scale timber harvesting operations.

At Lincoln Plantation's single village, Wilsons Mills, a post office was established in 1850; it remains the most northerly in Oxford County today. Lincoln Plantation's population stood at 52 in 1880. The most recent tally of permanent residents listed two less than a century ago.



L-1. "AZISCOHOS HOUSE"

ca. 1831, 1890s. Route 16

Little changed since the late nineteenth century, the Azischohos House is a seventeen-room wood frame hotel with important associations with Lincoln Plantation's first settlement and its later development as a popular sportsmen's retreat. The oldest portion of the structure, a Cape constructed about 1831 by Lorenzo Lombard, is considered to be the first frame structure erected in the "Upper Settlement"; Lorenzo Lombard and his father, Richard, arrived as the plantation's first settlers in 1825. In the 1890s, Frederick and Lucinda Flint purchased the Lombard House, added a large three-story wing, and opened the place to the public. Isolated from the rest of the county, and accessible only by a road (now Route 16) from Errol, New Hampshire, the "Azischohos House" (taken from an Indian word said to mean "pines on the mudbank") soon became an important stop for guests frequenting Parmachenee Lake and Upper and Lower Mettalluc Ponds (now the man-made Azischohos Lake), further north. During many

Maine winters, the hotel, now a private residence, provided lodging for local logging crews.

A few miles north is the Aziscohos Dam (1909-11), a massive concrete structure that was the largest of its type in the world upon completion.



L-2. SPAULDING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

1902-03. Route 16

A simple vernacular Victorian church with corner tower, the Spaulding Memorial Chapel was completed in 1903 and named for Dr. Edward G. Spaulding, one of the early members of the "Parmachenee Club," a sporting syndicate located on a small lake north of the "Magalloway Settlements." A substantial construction for such an isolated and sparsely-populated region, the church consists of a one-story gable-roofed block whose facade wall displays three memorial windows framed together. Centered above these is a smaller, round-arched panel with the building's name and construction date. Typical of small county churches erected at the turn-of-the-century, the well-preserved building retains its dark-stained interior of matched-board sheathing.

The Magalloway Plantation Church (see M-1), a few miles south, is almost identical to the Spaulding Chapel in form and fenestration.

L-3. BENNETT-BEAN BRIDGE

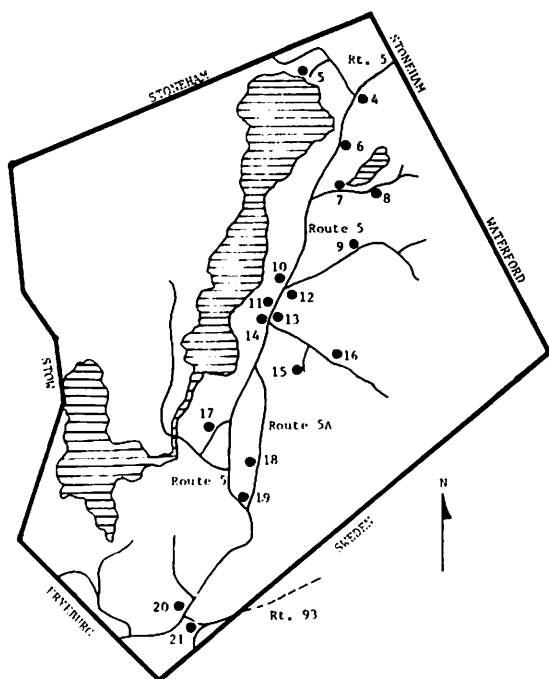
1898. Off Route 16 (NR)

A ninety-two foot span built in 1898 over the Magalloway River, the Bennett-Bean Covered Bridge is the sole survivor of three covered bridges that once



crossed this waterway. Of Paddleford truss construction, with granite abutments (which replaced earlier ones of wood), the bridge was framed and raised by Mason Brothers of Bethel. All materials, except for planking for the bridge floor, were purchased in Upton, rafted across Umbagog Lake, and floated up the Magalloway River, a trip that took six days for the twenty-five mile distance. With its overhanging portals, and sides boarded three-quarters of the way up, the picturesque span is the furthest north and youngest of the five remaining covered bridges in Oxford County.

LOVELL



INTRODUCTION

The origins of the town of Lovell lie in a 1727 land grant along the Merrimack River made by the General Court of Massachusetts to the survivors of a Fryeburg skirmish of two years previous known as "Lovewell's Battle." Located some six miles south of present-day Concord, New Hampshire, the settlement took the name "Suncook" after a local Indian tribal designation. In 1741, when a dispute over the Massachusetts-New Hampshire boundary was partially resolved, the citizens of Suncook found themselves within the latter colony, and immediately petitioned for another township "north of the Frye Grant" within the District of Maine. Not until 1774 was the request granted, and even before the grantees (known as "proprietors") had completed a survey of the mountainous tract, the seven mile square parcel was named "New Suncook." Besides the present town of Lovell, this original grant included the town of Sweden, established as a separate political unit in 1813.

Among the first settlers, who were preceded by the itinerant hunter and guide George Kezar (for whom Lovell's largest waterbody, Kezar Lake, is named) as well

as the once-numerous native Americans, were Abraham Andrews, John and Benjamin Stearns, and Josiah Heald, all of whom were here by 1789 and perhaps as early as 1780. Having satisfied the many requirements for town status, New Suncook was incorporated in 1800 as "Lovell," a shortened version of the surname "Lovewell."

During its first century of existence, Lovell became, like its neighboring towns, a mainly agricultural community, though woods-oriented industry has always played an important economic role. Indeed, the locale known as "Slab City" had two cooper shops and two stave mills, in addition to numerous "shook shops," as late as 1881. The activities of a typical West Lovell resident during the mid-nineteenth century were summed up as one who "farmed, had thirty or forty cows, sold timber, worked in the woods, and made apple barrels in the little shop across the road." That individual was doing, it was said, what at least forty others were doing in that part of Lovell alone. Falling within the great variety of other nineteenth century occupations were wool carding, tinsmithing, furniture making, corn canning, and cranberry harvesting. One need look no further than Lovell Village with its solidly-built houses for evidence of the brick-making industry which thrived here in the 1840s and 1850s. In the late nineteenth century, Lovell was "discovered" for its valuable scenic qualities, and the resulting construction of "cottages" and hotels formed the basis of what has developed into a major economic mainstay.

Of the Lovell natives who left the town to seek successful careers elsewhere, Eastman Johnson stands above the rest. Born here in 1824, Johnson went on to become an important genre and portrait painter who, during nearly four years at The Hague, became known as the "American Rembrandt." The list of those who made Lovell a seasonal retreat, especially after the turn-of-the-century, includes former Pullman Company manager Charles Garcelon, artist and sculptor Douglas Volk, and entertainer Rudy Vallee.

A town greatly appreciated for its aesthetic qualities, Lovell abounds in significant architecture encompassing the entire nineteenth century, with important examples from the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries in evidence. In addition, a number of substantial summer residences represent the culmination of Lovell's development as an important seasonal retreat for the socially prominent. The Lovell Historical Society, in cooperation with the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library at Lovell Village, has instituted a program to both collect and publish information on Lovell's past; an in-depth survey of the town's architectural heritage is currently in the planning stages.

Lovell's main population centers — Lovell Village, Center Lovell, and North Lovell — are located along Route 5 which, in running north-south through the town, essentially divides it into nearly equal halves. Naturally, the influx of seasonal residents swells the population by several times. Over a century ago, Lovell's 1880 population was recorded at 1,077 people. In 1980, the number of year-round inhabitants numbered 767.

L-4. NORTH LOVELL VILLAGE**Route 5**

The structures which presently comprise the village of North Lovell are, like many other late-settled areas of Oxford County, conservative in both design and materials. The prevailing style of buildings here is Greek Revival, with vernacular forms of mid-to-late nineteenth century structures much in evidence. Though several well-maintained examples of domestic architecture exist in this northernmost village in the town of Lovell, three public buildings deserve special mention as products of an earlier period of local prosperity.



North Lovell Store

The wooden two-and-a-half story commercial structure at the corner of Route 5 and the Evergreen Valley (or West Stoneham) Road was built between 1865 and 1875 as an Odd Fellows Building, with one large room on the first floor for dining and dancing, and several meeting rooms on the second floor. Due to a post-Civil War exodus of residents from the area, the lodge membership rapidly declined, and in 1923 the building was sold by the lodge and became solely a commercial establishment. Essentially unaltered on the exterior, the store has an asymmetrical arrangement of facade wall openings due to the location of an interior stairwell to the second floor at the extreme right of the facade.

North of the North Lovell Store and across Route 5 are the Kezar Lake Grange Hall and the Lewis Dana Hill Memorial Library, the latter once the North Lovell Schoolhouse. Kezar Lake Grange was organized on September 17, 1904, and the following spring the grange members erected the present two-and-a-half story vernacular hall. Next to the grange hall is the former North Lovell Schoolhouse, built around 1848 to service the last school district (Number Fourteen) organized in Lovell. Until 1954, the steeply-gabled story-and-a-half frame structure stood on the north side of the highway. Repaired and moved across the road

that year, the school continued in use for another six years, at which time the few remaining students were sent to the Village School (see L-20). In 1966, the North Lovell Library, named in honor of longtime summer resident Lewis Dana Hill, was moved from its former headquarters in the adjacent grange hall to the refurbished schoolhouse, where it remains today.

L-5. "GARCELON MANSION" (Charles Garcelon House)

1908-09. Off Route 5 on Kezar Lake

Built at the north end of Kezar Lake, with magnificent views of the surrounding mountains, the Garcelon Mansion, as it was once called, was constructed in a Neoclassical style by Charles Garcelon, a retired manager of the Pullman Company and the son of a former Maine governor. Impressive both in its size and architectural styling, especially in light of the rural context in which it was raised, the two-and-a-half story, clapboard-covered, hip-roofed structure is similar in form and detail to the ambitious summer "cottages" built at Bar Harbor and other coastal resorts. The exterior is notable for its flat, tapered corner pilasters, enriched modillion brackets set under a deep cornice, and expansive front porch with fluted Ionic columns and impressive roof balustrade. On the interior, much of which was constructed by Italian craftsmen brought to Lovell by Garcelon, are solid maple floors, hand-carved paneling and fireplace trim, and an elaborate staircase framed by columns matching those on the exterior. Among the many "cottages" built during Lovell's heyday as a fashionable watering place, the Garcelon Mansion stands unequalled in its siting and quality of design.

L-6. WHITING-CHUBB HOUSE

ca. 1825-30, ca. 1897. Route 5

The Whiting-Chubb House is important both for its association with one of Lovell's first settlers, Joshua Whiting, and as one of the town's first summer estates, a large number of which developed after the 1890s on the perimeter of nearby Kezar Lake. Though the distinction of having built Lovell's first summer residence must go to the Reverend Jacob Werren (see L-11), the original early nineteenth century Cape built by Joshua Whiting now forms the core of one of Lovell's most interesting seasonal homes.

Professor and Mrs. Percival Chubb of New York City were among the first of many summer people who were to purchase established homes of former Lovell residents. They had learned of the local scenic qualities from the so-called "school group" of North Bridgton, made up of young teachers in the tutorial camps for private school students. Purchasing the former Whiting House just before 1897, the Chubbs altered the structure with the addition of a large rear ell and wrap-around porches with chamfered posts and spindles. In addition, the



property was landscaped, the original massive stone walls were restored, and several log “guest cottages” were interspersed among the tall stand of pine at this prominent hillside location. Though the property has again changed hands, it retains the overall character of this late nineteenth century transformation. Most importantly, it qualifies as a prototype for the numerous cottages and seasonal estates that have been largely responsible for Lovell’s twentieth century economic stability.

L-7. HEALD-FOX FARMSTEAD

ca. 1840. Slab City Road off Route 5

While not an uncommon architectural form for Oxford County, the Heald-Fox Farmstead retains one of the best-preserved local examples of a high-posted vernacular Greek Revival Cape with second story “eyebrow” windows tucked under the eaves. Built by Benjamin Heald, an early saw mill owner in the vicinity (and the man for whom nearby Heald Pond is named), this basically unaltered structure consists of the central-chimneyed Cape section, a story-and-a-half ell, and a large gable-roofed barn. Among the important original construction features remaining are multi-paned windows and a fine entrance doorway with sidelights and entablature. The house was later owned by the Fox family, who operated the Heald Mill until 1916. Undoubtedly, the long succession of saw mills in this section of Lovell is responsible for the placename, “Slab City.”



L-8. JOHN McDANIELS FARMSTEAD

ca. 1825-30 and later. Slab City Road off Route 5

This Greek Revival farmstead with high-posted Cape was the second home of John McDaniels, a Scotsman who was one of Lovell's earliest settlers. Standing at the northern edge of McDaniels Hill, which honors this town founder, the wood frame farmstead is unusually complete, down to its numerous outbuildings. McDaniels, who settled on this hillside site probably by the mid-1790s, was one of twenty-eight adult male residents listed on the Lovell tax roll for 1804. His son, John McDaniels, Jr., was born here in 1815; the younger McDaniels was one of over fifty Lovell natives, mainly from the Center Lovell area, to journey west in the 1860s, forming an enclave at Exira, Iowa.

L-9. ANDREWS-DAVIS HOUSE

1816 and later. Sabattus Road off Route 5

This eclectic, asymmetrically-arranged house has its origins in the present small west wing of rough-sawn boards raised about 1816 by Gideon Andrews, son of early settler Samuel Andrews. During the second quarter of the nineteenth century the steeply-gabled Cape section to the east was constructed with its unusual and somewhat awkward six-bay facade. The vertical flush-boarding and heavy Greek Revival corner pilasters with inset panels appear to be original. Sometime before the turn-of-the-century, the large gable dormer sheathed in patterned shingles was added to the half-story. Other minor structural changes were also carried out at this time. Except for the two windows in the single large

dormer, all sash is made up of six-over-six lights. The off-centered entrance on the first story south wall has a paneled door framed with plain moldings and sidelights.

L-10. UNITED CHURCH

1865-66. Route 5 at Center Lovell

The Lovell United Church is a locally-important vernacular Greek Revival structure fronting on Route 5 at the northerly edge of Center Lovell Village. The tall, austere building was begun in 1865 as the result of a revival movement within the local Congregational Church in which a number of members advocated baptism through immersion. Known in its earliest years as the "Christian Church," the building stands on a site formerly used as a brick yard by Edward Fox. Under the guidance of builders Henry and Benjamin Russell, the structure was completed and subsequently dedicated in November 1866. In 1903, the building was raised to allow for construction of a basement vestry. A modern wing used for educational purposes was added in 1969-70. Among the church's original features still much in evidence are tall, multi-paned windows along the sides, the pair of entry doors with transom lights on the east gable facade, and the tall belfry with louvered openings and square base.

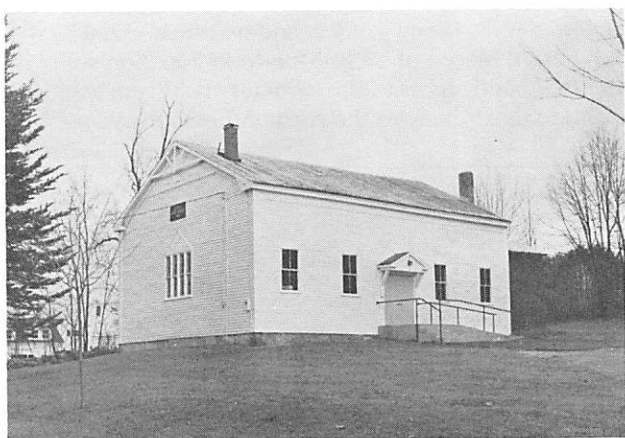


L-11. JACOB WERREN HOUSE

ca. 1895-1900. Route 5 at Center Lovell

The Reverend Jacob Werren, once professor of Greek and Hebrew at the Theological School of the Church of the New Jerusalem in Cambridge, Massachusetts, purchased a small parcel of land in 1893 on the eastern shore of

Kezar Lake, just below Center Lovell Village. Here he erected a modest cabin that was the first in a long line of summer residences that would eventually dot the lake's shoreline. Several years later, Werren built this story-and-a-half clapboarded structure, with something resembling a "pavilion roof," on the west side of the highway through Center Lovell. An avid reader and musician, as well as preacher, Werren set up a telescope of considerable power on the west-facing side of his house. With its spectacular view of the lake and surrounding granite-topped mountains, it is no surprise that Werren was later to exclaim of the site, "In all my travelling, this is the finest view I have ever seen." Though the house, with its broad verandas, was moved a short distance back from the highway in the late 1920s, it has suffered little alteration and still boasts symmetrically-placed triangular and shed dormers on its patterned slate roof. The elaborate fieldstone foundation, dating from the move, has well-constructed "pilaster strips" and a substantial main staircase.



L-12. TOWN HOUSE

1796, 1827-28, ca. 1852, ca. 1890. Route 5 at Center Lovell

Originally designed as a typical two-and-a-half story gable-roofed meetinghouse similar to others raised on seventeenth century patterns in the county's oldest-settled towns, the Lovell Town House remains, despite several major structural changes during nearly two centuries of use, one of Lovell's most historic structures. On April 1, 1794 the proprietors of New Suncook, as the unorganized township was then called, voted "to build a meeting house and repair roads." A year later, twelve shillings on each man's "right" were raised towards construction, though the few surviving records indicate little was done until 1796 when the building was first occupied, despite its still-unfinished state. Two years later,

when the Congregationalists organized as Lovell's first church, religious services were held here.

By 1827, the Town House was deemed too high and too drafty for winter use, and Philip Johnson (father of artist Eastman Johnson), local innkeeper, postmaster (the first in town, 1822), and "builder," was given the task of lowering the roof and completing the interior. According to one record, the structure was only lowered by three feet (substantiated by the building's present dimensions), though Johnson did carry out internal improvements, including the construction of high-backed pews and a pulpit. The building served as a church and town meeting place until 1852, when a Greek Revival style structure (razed in 1970) was completed nearby for the Congregationalists. Though much of the present Greek Revival interior molding probably dates to around this time, the old pulpit and balcony were not removed until a subsequent remodeling around 1890. The two-over-two paned windows on the five-bay southern facade, the four-part window crowned with a decorative triangular panel on the west end wall, and the delicate wooden bracing and patterned shingles in the gable end are all the result of the last major remodeling, one which relied somewhat on late Victorian design.

The adjacent cemetery is Lovell's oldest and was authorized by the proprietors of New Suncook before March of 1780. Due to its location some distance away from a now much-widened highway, the cemetery is still enclosed by a distinctive wooden fence dating most likely to the turn-of-the-century.



L-13. CENTER LOVELL INN (Heald-Stearns House)

ca. 1830, 1890s. Route 5 at Center Lovell

One of the most impressive of the relatively few Mansard style structures in Oxford County, the Center Lovell Inn displays architectural elements from the

Italianate and Second Empire styles, added to what had been built around 1830 as a late Federal style five-bay house. Occupied as the second home of early Lovell settler and town selectman Josiah Heald, the house came into the hands of the Stearns family by the 1880s; under their ownership the building was enlarged to its present proportions. Notable exterior features are the wrap-around first story porch, the steeply-pitched mansard roof pierced with tall, pedimented dormers framed with scroll-like side moldings, and the square cupola with its Italianate round arch windows and bracketed cornice. Still serving its century-old purpose, the Inn was the early home of Marcellus Stearns, Florida governor after the Civil War.

The small Cape (ca. 1840) lying next to and south of the main Inn was recently moved onto the property from its former site at Lovell Village. Known as the Norton House (before becoming the Inn's "annex"), it has a four-bay facade and tall roof dormers added to match those on the adjacent structure; though well-intentioned, the recently added dormers are rather awkward and stylistically inappropriate additions to this otherwise modest residence.

North of the Inn and beyond a large barn dating to around the Civil War period is the former "Lakeview House," a summer hotel whose oldest section dates to before 1850. The two-and-a-half story five-bay structure once had an open porch on three sides, the result of major alterations and additions carried out around 1888. The building served as a boarding house and inn well into the twentieth century.

L-14. STEARNS-SEVERANCE HOUSE

ca. 1791 and later. Route 5 at Center Lovell

About 1789, John Stearns settled on this upland location at what would later become the focal point of Center Lovell Village. Soon after his arrival, Stearns erected the central-chimneyed section of this now much-expanded frame structure, and for a time operated a tavern at what was then one of the few places of settlement along present Route 5 between Fryeburg and Bethel. Among the original features of the house, which is undoubtedly the oldest structure at Center Lovell, are the nine-over-six paned windows and the restored interior fireplaces and early woodwork. The Greek Revival sidelighted entrance door was probably added sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. The property was the site of one of Lovell's most prosperous nineteenth century blacksmith shops, owned and operated by James Polk Vance, a well-known mountain guide for sportsmen visiting the area.

Near the Stearns-Severance House are several notable examples of five-bay, two-and-a-half story Federal style houses, as well as mid-to-late nineteenth century vernacular Victorian structures. Many of the oldest buildings in the immediate vicinity were reconditioned as a result of an influx, beginning at the turn-of-the-century, of seasonal residents into Lovell.

L-15. JOSEPH BARKER HOUSE (Lovell Town Farm)

ca. 1825-30, 1901-02. Eastman Hill Road off Route 5 at Center Lovell

This massive five-bay, center-chimneyed, clapboard-covered house with an extensive ell stands at the end of a long tree-shaded drive well above the cluster of houses at Center Lovell Village. Begun by Joseph Barker around 1825, the house resembles his father's home, built some decades before and still extant in Fryeburg (see F-12). The Lovell house, though built during the Federal period, closely follows eighteenth century examples in its broad proportions (the sidelighted entrance doorway is a twentieth century addition) and unadorned exterior wall surfaces.

In 1866, the town of Lovell purchased the Barker property, which then included several outbuildings (including the present garage where "shook" was later made) and a large barn, the latter of which still remains. Used until 1922 as a "town farm" for the care of the poor, elderly, or criminally-accused, the building was remodeled extensively in 1901-02, at which time the present two-and-a-half story ell with many of its rooms barred both at the windows and doors was completed. Restored in 1969 by its present owners, the Barker House retains in the oldest section six-over-six windows, wide floorboards, five working fireplaces, and a massive stone arch support for the huge center chimney.

**L-16. EASTMAN HILL STOCK FARM (Phineas Eastman House)**

1833-35 and later. Eastman Hill Road off Route 5 at Center Lovell

This two-and-a-half story brick Federal style house built by Phineas Eastman stands today as the centerpiece of an extensive, well-groomed estate located east of Kezar Lake at a prominent hilltop site. The oldest of some dozen brick

structures raised in Lovell during the nineteenth century (see L-20), ten of which are extant today, the Eastman House was elaborated into its present form early in this century. Most typical of the Federal style characteristics is the restrained, symmetrically-arranged five-bay facade with its elaborate entrance doorway displaying a semi-elliptical fan and sidelights (now concealed by an expansive glassed-in porch covering the front and side walls of the house). The four slender chimneys are located on the facade and rear walls, rather than along the ridge or on the end walls, as is usually the case. The smooth brick wall surfaces are broken by windows with twelve-over-eight lights and granite sills and lintels. Sometime after 1900 the wooden ell and large barn to the rear were redesigned to accommodate guests. Indeed, the house's builder, Phineas Eastman, originally designed the house with a ballroom for "the daughter's dancing parties and the wife's prayer meetings." In addition, a record of 1854 mentions a meeting at "Daniel Eastman's Hotel," which places further emphasis on the structure's traditional semi-public status.

West of the Phineas Eastman House, and now part of the same property, is the Fogg House, an early nineteenth century Cape now altered to house the estate's caretaker. East of the Eastman House is the Mellen Eastman House, a side-hall Greek Revival structure with an interesting entablatured doorway. It presently provides housing for those whose charge is the maintenance of this impressive Lovell estate.

L-17. VALENTINE LITTLE HOUSE

1823. Hatch's Hill Road

This low-posted, broad-roofed Cape was built on a prominent hillside site by Lovell's first-settled minister (Congregational), the Reverend Valentine Little, who did most of the construction work himself. Coming to Lovell in 1822 from Haverhill, Massachusetts, Little had previously served as acting pastor of the Bethel Congregational Church from 1809 to 1815 and "preceptor" at Bridgton Academy from 1816 to 1818. Known for his keen intelligence and practical manner, Little was one of the few Lovell men of the period with a college background, having graduated from Dartmouth in 1811. In addition, Little drew attention to himself by being the first in Lovell to own a wagon (which he built himself), to utilize carpets on his floors, and to protect his home through the use of lightning rods. In addition, Little constructed what was probably the first sailboat to ply Kezar Lake, though in the high winds the lake is known for, Little "found it too much to handle." Well-maintained as a memorial to one of Lovell's most influential early residents, the Little House is an excellent example of a relatively unaltered early nineteenth century county home.



L-18. CHARLES HOUSE

ca. 1800-10. Route 5A

The Charles House, a well-preserved, central-chimneyed, story-and-a-half Cape with gable-roofed rear ell, is of architectural importance as one of Lovell's least-altered early nineteenth century structures. With its low-posted facade, multi-paned windows, plain doorway with transom, and straightforward use of local materials, the building accurately conveys the modest home of an early town settler.

L-19. MOSES HUTCHINS HOUSE

ca. 1835. Route 5 at "Number Four Corner"

Set at an important crossroads site, the Moses Hutchins House is a substantial two-and-a-half story frame dwelling with attached side ell and barn. Though a product of late Federal period tastes in architecture, the house currently displays decorative features added during a Colonial Revival remodeling; elements from this reconstruction include the twelve-over-eight paned windows and the oversized entrance doorway with sidelights, semi-elliptical fan, fluted pilasters, and elaborated cornice. On the interior, evidence remains of earlier, nineteenth century wainscoting and fireplace mantels. The house is arranged on a center chimney plan, not unlike many county residences of the early nineteenth century.

Born in nearby Fryeburg in 1766, Moses Hutchins served in a volunteer force assembled in 1781 to guard the region after Indians attacked Sudbury Canada, now the town of Bethel. In 1802, he moved to Lovell and erected an earlier house near the site of the present structure. In 1838, probably soon after his second home was finished, Hutchins held a retailer's license and operated a store (now



razed) on the property. The Hutchins House was later owned by the Kimball and Stanford families.

L-20. LOVELL VILLAGE

Junction of Routes 5 and 93

Ranged along both sides of Lovell Village's Main Street, in the southern part of the town of Lovell, is a striking group of early-to-mid-nineteenth century buildings, a collection unequalled in western Maine for its great number of architecturally ambitious Greek Revival style brick structures, in addition to numerous well-preserved examples of Federal, Greek Revival, and Mansard style buildings constructed in wood.

Standing at the northern end and on the eastern side of the street overlooking much of the village is the substantial brick Barnes Walker House, built in 1847 for one of Lovell's most prominent nineteenth century businessmen. The oldest brick structure at the village, the Walker House was probably constructed by Ammi Cutter, a Westbrook, Maine, native who moved to Lovell in 1839, began a brick-making establishment with local businessmen Edward Fox and John E. Emery, and was responsible for the construction of a number of major buildings in the area (see F-20 and F-33). While obviously a product of the then-emerging Greek Revival style in Maine, the Walker House also displays design elements from the Federal style (the broad southern facade with its double entries), the Italianate style (the round-arch windows and tent-roofed cupola on the connected barn) and the Gothic Revival (the scroll-sawn bargeboards on the gable-end eaves). In a fine state of preservation, the Barnes Walker House must have been seen as a rather pretentious addition to a street then lined with modest wooden homes.



Barnes Walker House



McAllister House

South of and below the Walker House is the wood frame story-and-a-half McAllister House, once used as the local Methodist parsonage and said to date from 1801, making it the oldest structure in the village. Built as a "mill house," the three-bay low-posted structure with sidelighted entrance door and windows of six-over-six paned sash was moved to this site from a nearby location around 1855. Beyond the side-hall story-and-a-half Greek Revival Jonathan Farrington House, built before 1858, is the George Moore House, a similar and somewhat more interesting example of the type. Moore, a successful mill owner and furniture dealer, probably built the house around 1850. The building is notable

for its heavily entablatured windows and sidelighted entrance door, and for its "Carpenter Gothic" scrollwork around the eaves.



Thompson-Andrews-Prescott House

The only Mansard style structure in the village, the Thomson-Andrews-Prescott House was built, it is said, in the 1840s, though the concave, or "bell-cast," mansard roof probably dates to the 1870s when it was the home of Dr. Augustus French. Whereas the high hip roof atop the mansard section is a rather vernacular adaptation, the gable-roofed dormers with scrollwork trim, the prominent cornice supported by paired brackets, and the shouldered architrave trim on the first story windows and doors are all typical decorative details used in the Mansard or Second Empire style in Maine.

The Federal style Eastman-Paisley House, standing next door, was raised between 1820 and 1830 by Daniel Eastman and was long used as an inn. Between 1852 and 1868 the two-and-a-half story house was the home of the Reverend Joseph Smith, who came to Lovell to serve in the then-new Congregational Churches at Center Lovell and the Village. During the second half of the nineteenth century the building underwent a series of changes and additions, the most notable of which was the placement at the center of the five-bay facade of a two-story steeply-gabled Victorian porch with a semi-elliptical louvered fan in the pediment.

The Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library (1907-08) and the Annie Heald School (1922), two wooden hip-roofed structures that aspire towards the Colonial Revival and Bungalow styles respectively, stand back from the street on the sites of the large mansard-roofed Suncook (later American) House hotel (built 1830) and the Greek Revival Swett House, both of which were destroyed by fire in 1904. Next door, the Heald-Walker House, an essentially unaltered brick story-and-a-half house with ell and barn, combines Greek Revival and Italianate



Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library

influences into a rather eclectic whole. Constructed in 1860, the house has tall windows with six-over-six lights, a bracketed wooden cornice, and an elaborate door hood. The attached barn has Gothic-influenced board and batten sheathing. An octagonal, tent-roofed gazebo, dating to 1880, stands on the lawn nearby as an important reminder of late nineteenth century Victorian tastes. Nelson Gamage, the builder of the house, was a successful local storeowner who took advantage of changing population trends and business activities as Lovell Village grew to its present proportions after 1840.



Heald-Walker House

The Kimball-Ring House next door is a particularly fine high-posted Greek

Revival Cape similar in form to the Hobbs House which stands further south on Route 5. The former structure dates to around 1810-12 when Henry Kimball built the present ell. Sometime between 1835 and 1840, John Walker, long the village postmaster, added the clapboard-covered front portion with its tall end chimneys and inset entrance doorway framed by fluted and block moldings. Under a later owner, Samuel Ring, the house served again as the village post office from 1948 to 1967. The Kimball-Ring House provides an interesting contrast to the Federal style Chandler-Warren House to the south. Distinguished by a sophisticated entrance doorway with cornice and consoles framing a broad semi-elliptical fan, the Chandler-Warren House has a front two-and-a-half story segment built about 1827 by local saw and grist mill operator Benjamin Wyman. The four-bay story-and-a-half ell with transomed doorway was built about a decade earlier by local builder, postmaster, and innkeeper, Philip Johnson. From 1846 until the late 1880s, the house was the residence of Dr. Isaac Chandler, a successful medical practitioner who, at the end of his career, charged one dollar for a house call "with medicine furnished."

The spacious wooden gable-roofed Federal style Otis True House, begun as a store by Philip Johnson in 1824, faces the intersection of the Sweden Road (Route 93) with Main Street. A one-time owner, John Wood, son of an early and influential town proprietor by the same name, constructed the first saw and grist mills on the nearby Kezar River in 1826 (floods in 1914 and 1952 destroyed the original dam and mill structure). The house is noteworthy for its fine fan doorway and arched openings on the first story of the extensive ell section. The exterior wall chimney, corner pilasters, square paneled porch columns, and one-quarter-round lights on the gable end are additions from a Colonial Revival "restoration" carried out early in this century. The detached vernacular Greek Revival style barn and landscaped grounds add design interest to this important corner site.

On the opposite side of Route 93, facing what once was a triangular Common with bandstand (now eliminated due to the widening of Route 5), stands the vernacular two-and-a-half story Masonic Hall, a clapboard-covered structure built by local blacksmith David Lord to house his shop in the basement, a store on the first floor, and living quarters on the second. The local Masons, organized in 1870, moved here from the second floor of another village store in 1919. The building most likely dates to the early 1890s.

One of only a handful of Lovell buildings that can be definitely traced to the eighteenth century stands further south on Route 5 beyond a simple structure, once a blacksmith shop, at the corner of Routes 5 and 93. Known throughout much of the nineteenth century as the Hartford Hotel (or "General Benjamin Hartford House"), the building has its origins in the present gable-roofed front portion which was constructed around 1790 by early settler Zacheus McAllister. Both the asymmetrical window arrangement and the fine Federal doorway on the facade wall indicate major alterations, possibly carried out when the two-and-a-half story rear ell was added in 1812. The house, which was carefully restored to its mid-nineteenth century appearance in 1970, has a pair of tall interior chimneys and a pedimented side doorway.



"Hartford Hotel"

The story-and-a-half brick Greek Revival John Emery House, built between 1850 and 1851, and its neighbor, the wood frame Hobbs House, built a decade earlier in 1840, essentially mark the southwestern boundary of Lovell Village. In 1847, John Emery went into the brick-making business with several others but three years later left to carry on his own establishment, one which provided materials for two other nearby houses (see below) and for two schoolhouses (see S-23 and S-25) extant in the adjacent town of Sweden. Emery built his own brick house, which features heavy granite window and door lintels and sawn bargeboard eaves trim, for himself and his new bride. The structure, which also includes an extensive ell and large barn, remained in the Emery family until 1943. The high-posted vernacular Greek Revival Cape next door, the Hobbs House, is the least-altered structure at the lower end of Lovell Village and features a sidelighted, boldly-framed entrance door and multi-paned windows. Built in 1840, it includes a three-bay ell, a weathered shed section, and a shingle-covered barn that together convey an unspoiled picture of a typical county residence from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

On the opposite side of Route 5 and on a slight rise stands the Abraham Pray House, a particularly fine example of "extended" or connected architecture in a rural setting. The five-bay story-and-a-half brick Cape section with end chimneys was built of materials from the nearby Emery brickyard. Further north of the Pray House is the brick Pray-Wiley House, built along lines similar to the John Emery House across the highway. Both houses date from around 1850, three years before Emery closed his brick-making facilities.

Closer to the main part of Lovell Village stands the much-remodeled District Seven Schoolhouse, a gable-roofed brick structure built in 1850 by Ammi Cutter and John Emery with brick from the Cutter kiln. Used until 1923 when the Annie Heald School (see above) was completed, the building, in its original form, looked

much like the Black Mountain Schoolhouse (see S-25) which remains in unaltered form in nearby Sweden.

Further north on Main Street stands the gable-roofed Federal style Philip Johnson House, the boyhood home of his son, the nationally-recognized artist Eastman Johnson, born here in Lovell (some say in his grandparent's home near "Number Four Corner") in 1824. Before moving to Fryeburg (see F-9) and on to Augusta where he became Maine's secretary of state, Philip Johnson established a short but varied business career in Lovell. Besides being one of the earliest local builders for which any documentation exists (see L-12), Johnson also operated a local carding mill where he made felt hats. In 1822, a short time after he had constructed the ell of this house, he became the first postmaster for Lovell Village, the nearest post office until then being at Woodbury's Inn on the Sweden Road, in a part of Lovell that became Sweden at the latter's incorporation in 1813. In the front, two-and-a-half story section of the house, built around 1830, Johnson ran a tavern until his departure in 1838. The house has additional historic significance as the site for some of the last proprietary meetings held in Lovell (mainly to distribute the remaining unsold parcels of town property).



James Walker House

The James Walker House of 1838 and the Charles Wood House of 1855 stand opposite the junction of the Sweden Road with Main Street. Together, they represent two of the finest examples of large wooden Greek Revival houses to be found anywhere in Oxford County. In almost any other location within the county's bounds, they might seem overly ambitious; alongside the several brick structures to be found here in a similar scale and architectural motif, they transmit a remarkable sense of their place and time, a period during which Lovell Village became the trading center for the town. The Walker House, the more southerly of the two, consists of a two-and-a-half story main block with connecting ell, sheds, and barn. The house has paneled corner pilasters, a wide entablature beneath the

eaves, tall first story windows, and a porch on three sides supported by Greek Doric columns. The flush-board sheathing and fluted corner pilasters of the first floor walls are common features in high style Greek Revival houses as found in the county.



Charles Wood House

The Wood House, which through the use of certain stylistic devices tries to achieve a temple-like appearance, remains a vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival forms, especially in light of the very steep roof pitch and tripart window located high in the facade gable. Like the Walker House, the Wood House has boldly-formed corner pilasters and a very wide entablature in the pedimented gable end. Additional features of note here are the pediment-shaped window heads and the square posts with rudimentary capitals found on the wrap-around porch. Early photographs indicate that the Walker House porch was once surmounted by a heavy wooden balustrade; whether or not the Wood house boasted a similar feature when built is not yet known.

The Ammi Cutter House (ca. 1850), one of the county's finest Greek Revival-Italianate style houses built of brick, stands on the west side of Main Street north of the Sweden Road (Route 93) junction. Evidence indicates that the substantial two-and-a-half story house was planned and constructed by Cutter, a capable nineteenth century builder and entrepreneur who was also responsible for the center portion of Fryeburg Academy (see F-20). Cutter came to Lovell as a young man and married Olive C. Eastman, a member of an early and influential Lovell family. In addition to operating a brickyard, Cutter for a time managed the saw and grist mills begun by John Wood, and later became county sheriff and a member of the governor's council. In September 1857, Cutter moved with his family to Anoka, Minnesota, where he carried on a dry goods, grocery, and lumber business. Despite his apparent success as a builder in Oxford County, little information



Ammi Cutter House

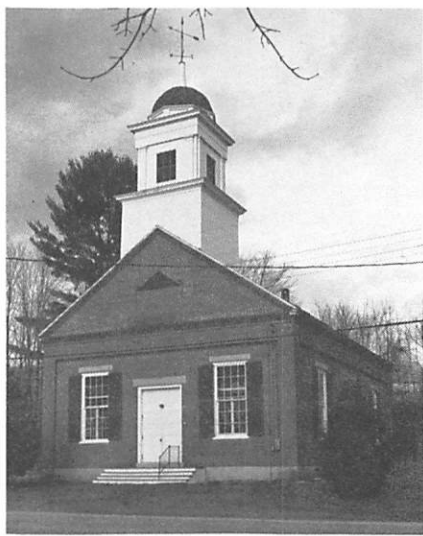
exists to confirm a similar career after his departure. The finely-laid brick walls of this structure are divided through the use of pilaster strips, which in turn support a wide entablature. While the tall windows capped with heavy granite lintels are in keeping with Greek Revival motifs, the paired windows framed together in round-arch openings, the cornice with its scroll-like modillions, and the bay windows on the facade wall, are all elements of Italianate influence. The two-story porch on the facade's center bay was added after 1905 and replaces a simpler one-story porch with balustrade. In the context of a small Maine village, the Cutter House is an outstanding architectural achievement.

Beyond the Lovell Post Office, which stands on the site of a wooden commercial structure unfortunately razed in 1967, is the Frank Walker House, a high-posted Cape (probably built between 1835 and 1840) with a pilastered entrance doorway. The clapboard-covered house, whose ell may predate the larger front portion, was once occupied by David R. Hastings, one of the town's first lawyers who, after service during the Civil War, established a residence and law practice in nearby Fryeburg Village (see F-20 and F-24).

Knight's Olde Country Store (NR), which holds the corner of Main Street and the Christian Hill Road, is one of the finest mid-nineteenth century commercial structures in Oxford County. Begun in 1838 by local merchants John and James Walker, the massive structure, which is actually three separate buildings connected together, incorporates major constructions dating from 1844 and circa 1850. The building, which has housed a well-documented series of businesses (including an undertaking establishment, the remnants of which — several unused coffins — remain in the attic), combines Greek Revival and vernacular architectural forms in a setting little changed since its construction.



"Knight's Olde Country Store"



"Congregational Church"

West of Route 5, on a street lined with mainly vernacular wood frame houses, is the Lovell Congregational Church (now Lovell United Church of Christ), a remarkably sophisticated Greek Revival edifice that is the finest of its style in brick in the county. Erected in 1850-51 under the direction of builder Ammi Cutter, the building features a three-bay facade with granite-capped window and door openings, a corbeled brick cornice surrounding a closed pediment with triangular louvered ventilator, and corner pilaster strips supporting a corbeled

entablature. A square belfry with louvered openings, flat decorative pilasters, and octagonal dome with windvane sits atop a square base sheathed in flush boarding; the belfry section is an exact replica of the original, which, due to its deteriorated state, was recently replaced. Inside, the church, used now only for summer services, retains its original woodwork and "singers' gallery."

The E. N. Fox House, a rambling vernacular Victorian structure built in 1873 under contractor James Martin, stands on a corner lot north of the Knight Store and at the foot of a slight hill. It displays a wide variety of window shapes, trim elements, and decorative devices. The vernacular store next door was built around 1880 and attached to an already-existing building which had been moved to the site from a location behind the present library building. Until 1857, this Main Street site was occupied by Lovell's only brick commercial block, destroyed by fire that year.



Hutchins-Walker House

The mid-nineteenth century Tristram Knight House, built by John Merrill, stands further up the hill and is notable for its entablatured side entrance and wide gable-to-the-street design. Knight operated a drug store on the site of the present post office and was himself postmaster of Lovell Village from 1864 to 1886. Interestingly, he founded around 1887 the "Lovell Circulating Library," a short-lived commercial venture that was a forerunner of the present village library. Just above the Knight House, at the northern end of Main Street, is the brick Hutchins-Walker House (ca. 1850), a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed brick structure with bargeboard eaves trim and a graceful wrap-around porch added in 1915. Like the Barnes Walker House located diagonally across the street, the Hutchins-Walker House was built of locally manufactured brick under the guidance of builder Ammi Cutter. Attached to the rear ell at a right angle is a wood frame barn with an unusually wide gable end exhibiting window treatment similar to that of the Barnes Walker House. Together, the two structures frame the northern end of

Main Street and symbolize the economic prosperity of Lovell Village during the middle of the nineteenth century.



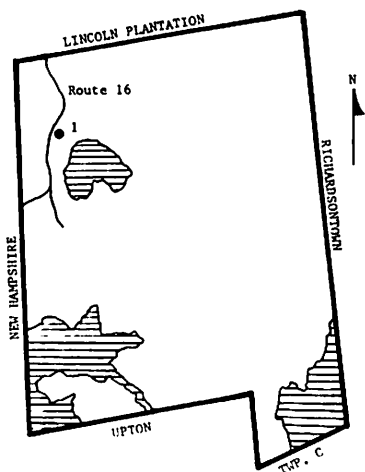
L-21. "BASSETT'S TAVERN" (Caleb Eastman House)

ca. 1820-25. Route 93 and Smarts Hill Road

This early nineteenth century house built by Caleb Eastman was later converted into a public house by Joseph Bassett, a local carriage maker who also operated a nearby saw mill and tannery on Kezar River. Like the Plummer House at Waterford (see W-6), this two-and-a-half story Federal style farmhouse has a five-bay first story and a four-bay second story on the facade wall. Now converted into apartments, the center-chimneyed house retains an interesting projecting entry, and a large room in the connecting barn once used as a dance hall.

On the opposite side of Smarts Hill Road is the now much-remodeled "Union Church," built in 1834 for the local Methodists. While most of its original architectural features are now disguised by later renovations, the building, used presently as a V.F.W. hall, incorporated both Federal and Gothic Revival design elements in the original plan.

MAGALLOWAY PLANTATION



INTRODUCTION

A sparsely-settled tract on the New Hampshire border between the town of Upton and Lincoln Plantation, Magalloway Plantation was known previous to 1840 as "Township 5, Range 1." In that year the "Upper and Lower Magalloway Settlements" were organized as the "Plantation of Lincoln" (after a Maine governor of the 1820s). In 1860, the two communities along the Magalloway River again divided, with that to the north becoming "Lincoln Plantation" and the more southerly "Magalloway Plantation."

A mountainous area which encompasses portions of Umbagog and Lower Richardson lakes (both part of the Androscoggin River's headwaters), Magalloway Plantation was first settled in 1820 by David Robbins. Before 1825, Jonathan Leavitt, John Bennett, and Isaac York had all arrived from the Bethel area.

Like its sister community to the north, Magalloway has long been a popular sportsmen's retreat, as well as a prosperous timber-harvesting locality. Though its first residents cleared farmsteads and engaged in small-scale agriculture, farming as such plays a minor role in the plantation's current economy.

Magalloway's 1980 population totaled 79 individuals; a century earlier it registered only 45 people.



M-1. "TOWN HALL"

1923-24. Route 16

MAGALLOWAY CHURCH

ca. 1904. Off Route 16

The plain but substantial Magalloway Town Hall, located a few miles east of the Maine/New Hampshire border, was constructed in the early 1920s from designs by local carpenter Claude C. Linnell, who was in charge of the project. A grand ball was held at the building's dedication in the fall of 1924. Except for a new foundation, the rectangular structure stands essentially as built; its two-storied walls are capped with a hipped roof, which is mirrored by the carriage porch which shelters the facade entry. Tall second floor windows light an open interior that is especially spacious for such a small local population.

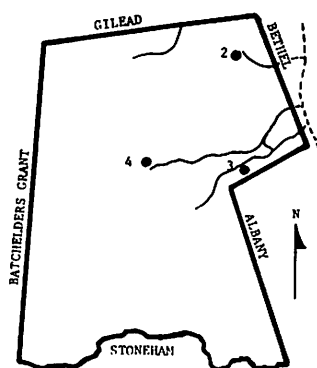
A similar but less elaborate structure is the Lincoln Plantation "Town Hall" (1907-10), located near the nineteenth century hamlet of Wilsons Mills on Route 16.

Off Route 16, where it crosses the Magalloway River near the state boundary, is the vernacular Victorian Magalloway Church, a small but remarkably well-preserved country chapel exhibiting bands of fish-scale shingles on its exterior. Completed about 1904, the church is almost a twin of the Spaulding Memorial Chapel (see L-2) in nearby Lincoln Plantation.



Magalloway Church

MASON TOWNSHIP



INTRODUCTION

The former town of Mason, now an “unorganized township” administered by the Oxford County commissioners, lies south of Gilead and west of Bethel. The boundaries of Mason include all of the former Davis Grant and parts of Batchelder’s and Fryeburg Academy Grants, with nearly half of the area now encompassed within the White Mountain National Forest. First surveyed in 1825 by Jason Sherman, the town was settled some three years previous by Cyrus Mills, Ashley Paine, Thomas Lary, and Nathaniel Tyler. Named in honor of Dr. Moses Mason of Bethel, one of the largest local landholders and the builder of the town’s first mills, the community was incorporated on February 3, 1843.

Due to the proliferation of high mountains throughout much of the town, what little industry developed there in the nineteenth century centered around the numerous water-powered mills along the West Branch of the Pleasant River. Between 1827 and 1850, Dr. Mason was instrumental in the construction of grist, saw, shingle, and carding mills here. At sites along the “Bog Road,” which enters the northern part of the township from Gilead, and within the Pleasant River valley, small-scale farming also took root, if only temporarily. By the turn-of-the-century Mason’s population was steadily decreasing, so much so that in 1935 it became necessary to surrender the town charter. Improved means of transportation, along with emphasis on outdoor recreation and selective harvesting of local timber, has all but obliterated Mason’s former character.

Relatively few nineteenth and early twentieth century structures survive in Mason Township; due to the area’s spectacular scenic value, the seasonal residence or cottage forms a major part of Mason’s late twentieth century built environment. Listed as having 94 citizens in 1880, Mason can claim only a handful of permanent residents a century later.



M-2. EDMUND SMITH BARN

ca. 1880. Smith Lane off West Bethel Flat Road

Set against the spectacular backdrop of steep-sided Mains Mountain in the northern part of the township, the Edmund Smith Barn is one of the largest surviving wooden nineteenth century structures in Oxford County. The four-storied gable-roofed building employs decorative elements taken mostly from Queen Anne style motifs, notably the bands of wall shingles, the large pedimented door hood supported by stick-like brackets, and the fanciful, pointed-arch stained-glass windows in the octagonal cupola. Built as a shelter for horses by West Bethel timber operator and mill owner Alpheus S. Bean (see B-22), the barn is currently undergoing a complete restoration.

M-3. MASON SCHOOLHOUSE

1838, ca. 1923. On road following West Branch of Pleasant River

This one-story frame structure with simple entrance door centered on a three-bay clapboard-covered facade was erected in the spring of 1838 as Mason's first and only one-room schoolhouse. Built in response to a then-growing population devoted mainly to agricultural pursuits, the schoolhouse followed by three years the establishment of a primitive classroom in a local barn. Attached to the main structure, which rests on a foundation of split granite, is a shed wing added just before 1924 when state law required the standardization of certain "necessities." The last public building in the former town of Mason to remain essentially intact, the schoolhouse retains its original six-over-six paned windows and well-worn blackboards.

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A short distance east, on the bank of the Pleasant River and at the foot of a low hill containing the Mason Cemetery, is the former Mason Town Hall, a small story-and-a-half frame structure dating to 1912 and now converted to residential use.



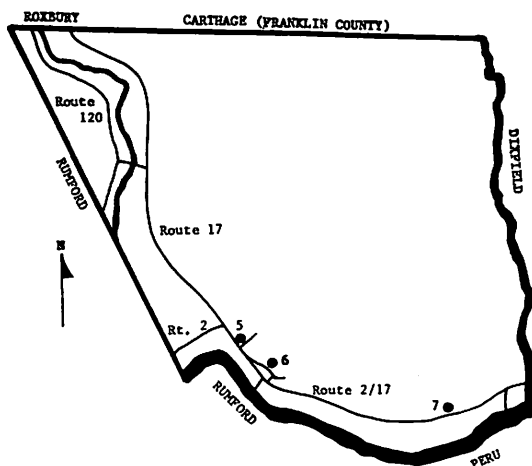
M-4. BLANCHARD ESTATE (“Blanchmont”)

1903 and later. King’s Highway off West Bethel Flat Road

This spacious vernacular “lodge” was built early in this century on a site now well within the boundaries of the White Mountain National Forest. Like the many substantial cottages that still line several of the county’s largest lakes (those on the

shore of the so-called Richardson Lakes in the northern part of the county being some of the most historic examples), the Blanchard Estate illustrates to what extent well-to-do seasonal residents were willing to go in achieving a rustic but comfortable existence away from the hectic pace of urban society. Now operated as a year-round retreat, the main, hip-roofed building features a mineral stone fireplace and original furnishings constructed of local materials "left rough." On the southern facade, a seventy-five foot porch faces some of the county's most spectacular wilderness scenery. Nearby stand several shingle-covered out-buildings built at the time the main house was erected; among them are a garage, ice house, and workshop.

MEXICO



INTRODUCTION

Lying along the county's eastern border, Mexico was once part of "Androscoggin Purchase, Township Number 1" which was sold to a group of Worcester County, Massachusetts, men in 1789. Due to the influence of three of these early proprietors, Peter, Ebenezer, and Jonathan Holman, the township soon became known as "Holmantown." In 1803, the eastern half of this substantial tract of land was incorporated as the town of Dixfield; in 1818, the western portion took the name "Mexico," in sympathy for the then-active Mexican struggle from Spanish domination. Settlers first arrived in the vicinity of Mexico Corner, where the Swift River joins the Androscoggin, in the 1790s. Among the permanent residents in the town in 1808 were Thomas and Joseph Eustis, Samuel Knapp, Stephen Barnard, Isaac Gleason, Benjamin Edmunds, and Zebediah Mitchell.

Framed buildings in Mexico quickly followed the erection of saw mills on Mitchell Brook and Swift River early in the nineteenth century. After the construction of roads through the area, Mexico Corner took on importance as a local business center. Here were located several shops, a grist mill, two cheese factories, and a hops-growing operation. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, Mexico was profoundly influenced by the industrial developments at Rumford Falls, directly across the Androscoggin from Mexico Corner Village. It was at this time that a rapid boom in construction took place, mainly due to the influx of a large labor force connected with the sprawling paper mills nearby. At the eastern end of the Corner, commercial expansion created the separate village of "Ridlonville," named for the owner of a large hotel there. While fires and

demolition have taken their toll in the town, remnants of the former agricultural and later industrial eras still exist throughout the community.

In 1880, just previous to Hugh Chisholm's development of nearby Rumford Falls as the county's largest industrial center, the town of Mexico had a recorded population of 400 individuals. The 1980 population, which reflects a strong orientation to the modernized paper-making facilities nearby, numbered just under 3,700 people.



M-5. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1903-04, 1963. Route 2 (Main Street)

A vernacular Queen Anne structure whose exterior is completely sheathed in dark-painted shingles, the Mexico Congregational Church is a relatively intact survivor on a street where few buildings remain in unaltered condition. The cornerstone of the church was laid in 1903, and services were first held in June of the next year. The building is notable for its wide variety of window shapes and sizes, as well as for its pyramidal-roofed corner tower with louvered dormers. In 1963 a gable-roofed Sunday School addition was built off the west wall.

To the east is a long row of vernacular Colonial Revival double-houses with hip roofs and small facade porches. Built around 1910, they were considered the latest in millworkers' housing when completed. West of the Congregational Church is the Mexico Public Library (ca. 1920), a hip-roofed single-story Colonial Revival structure with porticoed entrance and fan-like window lintels. Above the church, on Granite Street, are several houses (ca. 1925) which reflect Queen Anne characteristics.

M-6. DR. NOYES HOUSE

ca. 1898. South Main Street

With the rapid development of Rumford Falls as an industrial center in the 1890s, its neighboring village of "Mexico Corner," at the junction of Routes 2 and 17, also experienced sudden commercial and residential growth. Of the substantial homes erected during this period, the former Dr. Noyes House, an eclectic Victorian structure constructed on a terrace overlooking the nearby mills, is probably the most nearly intact example remaining today. The house displays a small second story porch, three steeply-pitched facade gables, patterned shingle wall covering, segmental-arch windows, and bargeboard trim. In both its design and siting, the residence conveys the turn-of-the-century optimism of this paper-making "city-in-the-wilderness."

**M-7. "GREGORY INN"**

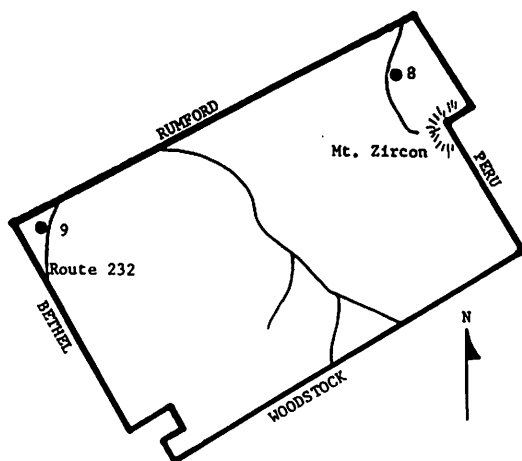
ca. 1865, 1890s. Route 2

This rambling vernacular Greek Revival farmstead stands in the shadow of a small hill beside the Androscoggin River. Operated as a popular roadside inn during the early years of this century, the multi-unit structure was begun by a Morrill family in the 1860s. In the 1890s, Charles Wilson, a Mexico native who became a successful lawyer at Providence, Rhode Island, purchased the property and added a carriage house, henhouse (with cupola), and elaborate wooden fencing in an effort to create a picturesque "retreat." Though it has passed through many hands since its brief period as a hotel, the Inn retains much of its late nineteenth century character.

Located a short distance to the east is the White House, a vernacular Queen Anne style residence constructed by Marcellus Tucker around 1888. Though the

house conveys an accurate picture of a typical large-scale Victorian home of its time and place, it is more important as a local landmark sited high above the Androscoggin River. The first bridge here was a four-span iron structure opened as a toll bridge in 1895. It was later replaced by the present crossing.

MILTON PLANTATION



INTRODUCTION

Situated near the center of Oxford County, Milton Plantation was organized as a political unit in 1842 but surrendered its charter in 1944. The earliest settlements seem to have been made along what is now Route 232, opened as the first road between Paris and Rumford in 1796. John Billings came from Paris as early as 1800 and was later followed by members of the Jackson, Hemmingway, Sessions, Penley, and Glines families.

A small agricultural community during most of the nineteenth century, Milton Plantation also included numerous sites for water-powered manufacturing; at mid-century, its streams supported a shingle mill, a tub and pail handle factory, and several saw mills. With the coming of a railroad in 1851 through several towns to the west, Milton was supplied with a stage which connected with the station at Bryant Pond Village in Woodstock. Soon, Dexter D. W. Abbott's hotel and mineral spa high on the slopes of Mt. Zircon were attracting tourists to Milton. In later years, several of the plantation's mountains were mined for their valuable mineral deposits.

Because of its geography, Milton Plantation developed two village areas by the second quarter of the nineteenth century: East Milton, near the actual center of the settlement, and Milton or "Milton Post Office," in the western sector. In 1880, 270 people made their homes here; a century later, Milton could only claim 123 permanent residents.



M-8. MT. ZIRCON SPRING HOUSE

ca. 1885. Off South Rumford Road

This modest hip-roofed building with cupola shelters the "Moon Tide Spring," made famous in the second half of the nineteenth century by Dixfield-born Dexter D. W. Abbott who, around 1860, opened a fifty-room hotel nearby and widely-publicized the curative powers of the sparkling water. In the post-Civil War period, Abbott added a bottling house to his operation and entertained guests with coach rides to popular nearby fishing spots, as well as to the spectacular cataract at Rumford Falls.

Though all trace of Abbott's resort long ago disappeared, later owners constructed the present Spring House and, in 1922, a large bottling plant in Rumford at the base of the mountain. Still noted for a fluctuation in flow that seems to coincide with the moon's phases, the Mt. Zircon Spring is an important link with the county's nineteenth century commercial and social activity.

M-9. JACKSON FARMSTEAD

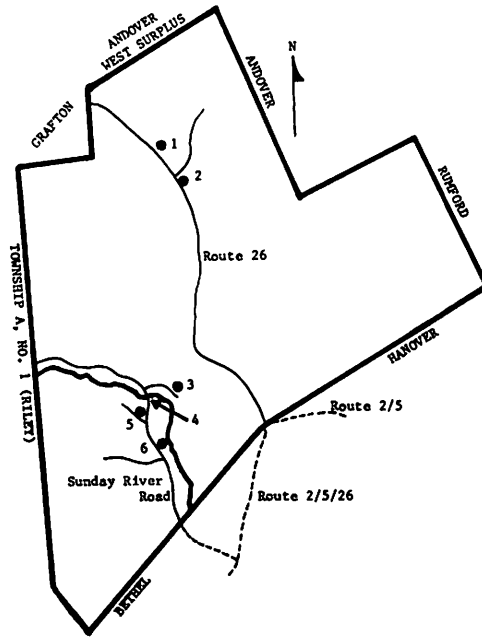
ca. 1810. Route 232

This early nineteenth century detached farmstead is important as an unaltered example of a "settlement period" home in Oxford County. Set in a rural location

amid open fields and heavily-forested hillsides, the farmstead centers around an asymmetrical six-bayed Cape and a nearby gable-roofed barn. In a region where many of the surviving farm structures follow the connected patterns of the post-1830 period, the Jackson Farmstead is a significant survivor from an earlier agrarian society.

To the south is a small cluster of buildings which in 1880 included a steam mill, hotel, carriage shop, and the Milton Plantation post office.

NEWRY



INTRODUCTION

A wilderness area that held potential for farming and timber cutting in the late eighteenth century, Newry was first settled in 1780 by Benjamin Barker of Methuen, Massachusetts, and Ithiel Smith of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. In its earliest stages of development, the community was known as "Sunday River Plantation," due to most of its settlers having chosen farmsteads within the Sunday River valley. In 1796, Massachusetts granted Sarah Bostwick, a wealthy New Jersey widow, some twenty-seven thousand acres here, and the prospering settlement became the "Township of Bostwick." In 1805, Bostwick was incorporated as Newry, for the Irish town from which one of the prominent local citizens had come.

Newry's many family-operated farms long ago faded as a vital part of the local economy. With the vanished market for area agricultural goods also went associated industries, including numerous small water-powered and steam-driven mills that once dotted the town's landscape. Though lumbering retains some importance today, thanks in part to the proximity of large paper-producing mills, seasonal recreation has become a major factor in the town's continued existence. Located in the southeast corner of the town, the Sunday River Ski Area is a

burgeoning winter resort that promises to become one of New England's most active recreational developments.

One of Oxford County's smallest towns, Newry nevertheless contains two of the area's most important historic sites (Sunday River Covered Bridge and Schoolhouse), in addition to the tangible remains of numerous nineteenth century structures closely associated with the town's earlier development as a prosperous agricultural community. During its height, Newry maintained active commercial centers at Newry Corner and North Newry; during much of its history, the section of town encompassing the Sunday River valley was known as "South Newry."

In 1880, Newry's population was listed as 337 individuals, one hundred more than that recorded in 1980.



N-1. POPLAR TAVERN

ca. 1846 and later. Route 26

One of northern Oxford County's most important nineteenth century hosteleries, Poplar Tavern faces Bear River in the North Newry section of the town. The original portion, that part which remains standing today, was constructed by Ithiel Smith around 1846 to accommodate travelers from the Androscoggin valley through Grafton Notch to the Umbagog Lake area; the road (now Route 26) alongside the nearby river and through the steep-sided notch to the north was laid out in 1823. Charles Bartlett, the next owner of the hotel, changed its name from the original "Popple Tree House" to "Poplar Hotel." In the 1880s, a group of former guests purchased the property, changed its name to the "Bear River Club House," and proceeded to install billiard tables and a new office and reception room inside. They also built an elaborate Queen Anne style gazebo with bands of colored fish-scale shingles encircling its roof; this structure, still standing in a state

of disrepair on the opposite bank of the river, was once reached by a wooden suspension bridge.

In 1895, the Tavern's owners built a four-and-a-half story addition north of the old structure and connected them with covered walkways. In 1901, the name was returned to "Poplar Tavern," a series of attached log cabins were removed, and the old section was refurbished. Though the large addition was torn down soon after, the hotel remained in operation until 1948.

N-2. NORTH NEWRY CHURCH

1904. Route 26

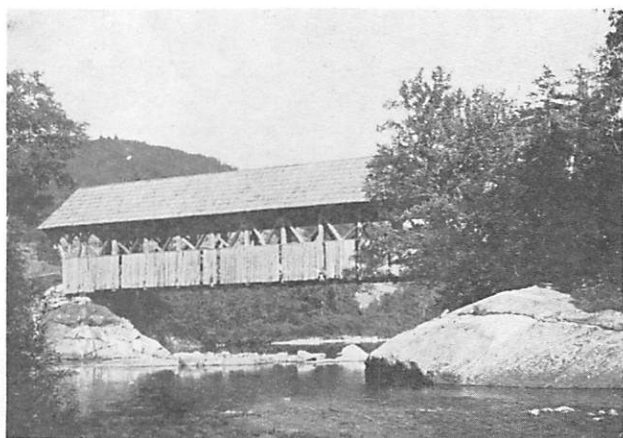
Begun in May 1904 and completed in August of that same year, the North Newry Church was built by local carpenters J. Gardner Roberts and Bert Barker as a Universalist Church. Displaying an exterior with modest Queen Anne decorative features, the church consists of a story-and-a-half main block at one corner of which is a shingled bell tower with pyramidal roof and projecting gabled door hood supported by simple diagonal brackets. On the gable end is a large round-arch opening of glass, made up of three separate windows; the whole gives balance to an otherwise unadorned facade. Typical of many rural churches of the period, the interior here is completely sheathed in matched hardwood boards. The building became a "Community Church" in 1913 when it was organized under the "Union Religious Society of Newry." Similar churches exist at Lincoln Plantation (see L-2) and Magalloway Plantation (see M-1).

The Branch Schoolhouse, a short distance east, was constructed in 1875.

N-3. ENOCH BARTLETT HOUSE

ca. 1790, ca. 1850. Off Sunday River Road

Enoch Bartlett, a Revolutionary veteran, was one of the first settlers of Newry and constructed the rear ell of this connected structure around 1790. The house passed through four generations of the Bartlett family and during this time was enlarged by the addition of a block three-bays wide in the Greek Revival style. The first story of this newer section displays tall windows and a sidelighted entrance doorway, all capped in pedimented heads. The moldings and scale of this portion are very similar to those of the Celdon B. Foster House nearby (see N-5). The Bartlett House underwent a period of restoration early in this century under the ownership of Edward Fisher of Lowell, Massachusetts, and has remained in a fine state of preservation since.



N-4. SUNDAY RIVER BRIDGE ("Artist's Bridge")

1872. Sunday River Road (NR)

The town of Newry voted late in 1870 to construct a bridge over Sunday River which was to be patterned after the covered bridge then standing over Bear River, near the present-day junctions of Routes 2 and 26 at Newry Corner. According to contemporary records, three dollars a day with board was paid to a group of local men for their labor; not until 1872 did actual construction of the present one hundred foot span take place, however. Hiram York, a prominent local carpenter, was in charge of the project. One account of the builders' efforts stated, "Beams, etc., were cut, marked out and made. The two halves were put together separately on the grass and when erected it was sure to settle into place correctly, which it did. It was then roofed over."

The name "Artist's Bridge" is said to have originated in several paintings of the locale done by artist John J. Enneking, a frequent summer guest at the nearby Locke Mountain House (see B-19) before the turn-of-the-century.

Of Paddleford construction, the Sunday River Covered Bridge was replaced by a modern concrete span in 1959 but has been maintained since that time for its historic and aesthetic value. The weathered crossing is one of nine remaining covered bridges in the state, five of which are located in Oxford County (see also A-13, F-36, L-3, and P-37).

N-5. CELDON B. FOSTER HOUSE

ca. 1830s, ca. 1850 and later. Sunday River Road

This fine gable front and wing Greek Revival house may contain structural elements dating from the 1830s, but its present proportions and application of heavy classical decorative elements probably date from around 1850. Framed in



boldly-designed paneled pilasters which support a very wide entablature, the house has pedimented gable ends and window heads. Tradition states that the fanciful wooden jigsaw-cut trim on the portico was added in the late 1860s or early 1870s, after a family member had traveled through the South.

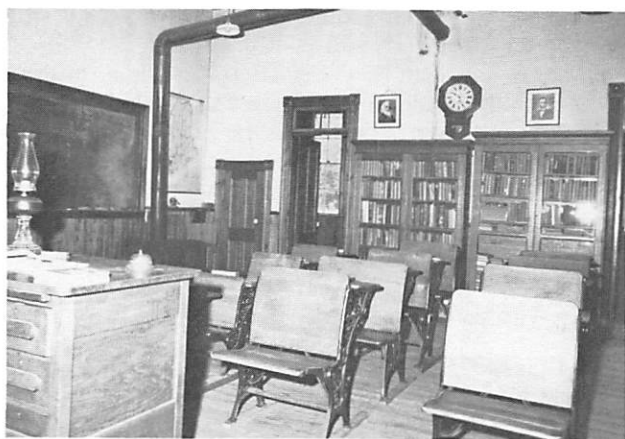
In 1895, the larger of the two barns across the road was constructed under the supervision of Hiram York, who also directed the raising, in 1872, of the nearby covered bridge. Near the house is a compact, two-story building once used as an ice-house. It may be the "J. Foster Shop," a soap-making operation, indicated on the county wall map of 1858.

N-6. LOWER SUNDAY RIVER SCHOOLHOUSE

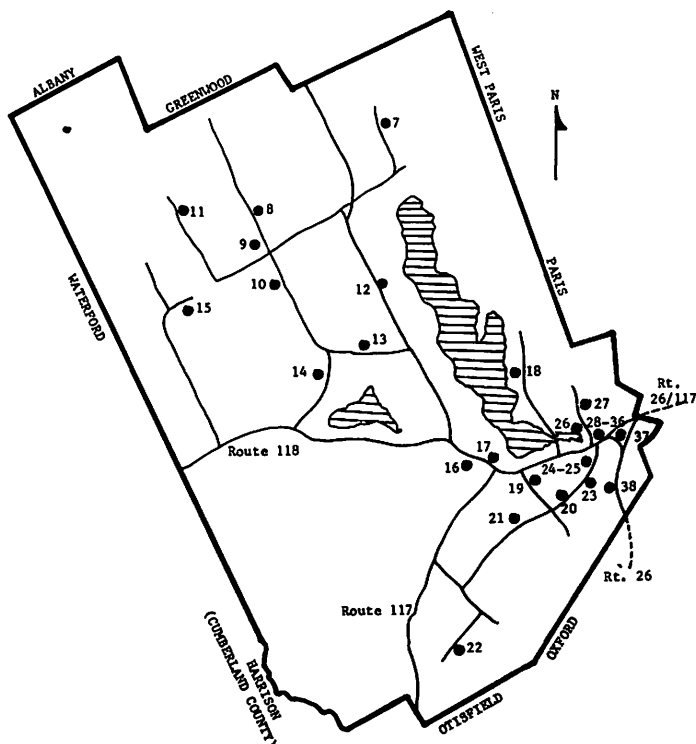
1895. Sunday River Road (NR)

The finest remaining one-room schoolhouse in Oxford County, this late Victorian period center of rural education is a remarkable survivor from nearly a century ago. Constructed in 1895 on the site of an earlier structure, the school was closed over thirty years ago when Newry combined with adjoining towns in a larger school district. The building's plain, clapboarded exterior gives little indication of its museum-like interior, which in retaining most of its original furnishings, presents an authentic and uncontrived appearance. Opened to the public as a period schoolhouse during the Bicentennial, Newry's "District Number One" school is one of the most important Maine examples of its type.

A half-mile south, on a slight rise west of Sunday River Road, is the Riley-Bean House, a ca. 1825 Cape that is probably the oldest structure in the valley. Built by Edward Riley, this slightly-altered house was also the home of his father, Luke Riley (Reily), who settled west of here in Riley Plantation (Township A, No. 1, also known as "Ketchum") in 1789.



NORWAY



INTRODUCTION

Of the five substantial parcels of land that were combined in 1797 to form the town of Norway, the two largest were "Rust's Purchase," six thousand acres secured in 1787 by Henry Rust of Salem, Massachusetts, and "Cummings' Purchase," some thirty-five hundred acres bought in 1788 by Jonathan Cummings, a blacksmith from Andover, Massachusetts. The first attempts at clearing farmsteads were made in the fall of 1786 when five men from Gray, Joseph and Jonas Stevens, Amos and Jeremiah Hobbs, and George Lessley, and two men from New Gloucester, William and John Parsons, arrived in the wilderness tract. The first frame structure in what came to be known as the plantation of "Rustfield" was raised by settler Joseph Stevens in 1787 and consisted of a one-story, sixteen by twenty foot building with a rough exterior sheathing of white pine. Two years later, the first saw and grist mills were erected at the outlet of Pennesseewassee Lake by Henry Rust. The name chosen at incorporation, while at first glance an

apparent honoring of the European country by the same name, was more likely a misspelling of "Norage" (an Indian word for "falls"), the name that appeared on the original petition made by Rustfield's citizens in 1795.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the two most populous areas within the town, Norway Center and Norway Village, took on an individual cohesiveness that enabled the town as a whole to develop as an agricultural center for surrounding, smaller townships. Thanks in part to an abundance of water power from several local streams, combined with the availability of raw materials, numerous small industries soon encouraged even further development. At the time of the arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad through nearby South Paris Village in 1850 (a short connection, the "Norway Branch Railway," was opened to Norway Village in 1879), the town's rural farmsteads were already plentiful and prosperous, and a Village Corporation, organized the year before, had begun planning for future expansion thanks to the railroad's major impact on transportation to and from Maine's bustling seaports to the south. From the post-Civil War period until the present, Norway has depended on a number of factors for its existence, not least of which is its proximity to major travel routes and nearby outdoor recreation areas. During the twentieth century, Norway has followed adjacent towns in developing large-scale dowel mills and woods-related industry.

Norway's history has been shaped as much by the town's notable residents, as by its physical characteristics. Among the many worthy of mention must be included Dr. Charles Asbury ("C.A.") Stephens, author and physicist; his wife, the opera singer Madame Scalar (Minnie Plummer Stephens); John Adams French, journalist and founder of the *Boston Herald*; Frank Andrews Munsey, publisher, author and founder of *Munsey Magazine*; Don C. Seitz, lecturer, author and business manager of *The World*; Mellie Dunham, veteran snowshoe maker and nationally-recognized fiddler; Vivian Akers, accomplished artist; and Minnie Libby, nature and portrait photographer.

The architectural heritage reflected by Norway's built environment covers nearly two centuries of development, with interesting representatives from many of the major design areas in evidence. Unfortunately, the Main Street section of Norway Village seems destined to experience the same kind of commercial over-development that has all but destroyed the early character of parts of nearby South Paris Village. In contrast, much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century atmosphere of the Main Street area could, with a careful plan towards the preservation, adaptation, and rehabilitation of important surviving structures, become itself a viable alternative to the sprawling shopping malls that have encroached along busy Route 26.

Norway's three largest population centers exist at Norway Village, Norway Center, and Norway Lake (also known throughout much of its history as "Ford's Corner" or "Frost's Corner," after early traders there). The number of residents recorded in the 1880 census was 2519. A century later the number of people living here year-round had climbed to 4042, with many more spending part of their time at seasonal retreats within the town.

N-7. MICAH UPTON FARMSTEAD

ca. 1830. Upton Brothers Road

This center-chimneyed high-posted Cape with extensive connected ells and barns was built by the son of one of Norway's earliest settlers, the Revolutionary veteran Amos Upton. Micah Upton selected a building site in the northern part of the town near the Greenwood town line and, following then-current building practices, constructed a house and detached barn which he eventually brought together by constructing the present ell. As the years progressed, Upton added still another gable-roofed shed to his original barn, and on the far end attached an even larger barn. With its simplified Greek Revival trim and agriculturally-oriented form, the Micah Upton property is a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century Maine farmstead.

N-8. BENJAMIN FULLER HOUSE

1794, 1840s. Old Greenwood Road north of Ridge Road

This five-bay gable-roofed house with a row of small "eyebrow" windows at the second story facade level was completed in November of 1794 by Benjamin Fuller of Middleton, Massachusetts, who had cleared land at this site the year before. The original design, a traditional Cape Cod style house displaying front roof eaves fixed just above the first story windows, was altered in the 1840s when heavier Greek Revival corner and doorway moldings were added, and the roof raised several feet. The alterations produced a house form not uncommon to many parts of Oxford County, though most examples seem to have been planned with the second story half-sized windows in mind.

Benjamin Fuller, called "the best situated financially of any of the early settlers," was an early trader at "Fuller's Corner," now "Swift's Corner" (see N-9). The timbers for his broad-roofed center-chimneyed Cape were cut on the property, but the boards came from Captain Henry Rust's saw mill at the lake outlet several miles away; they were rafted to the head of the lake and hauled to Fuller's lot. According to one town historian, Fuller's buildings (which included a thirty-two by fifty foot barn), when first raised, were the largest then standing in the north-central, or "Cummings Purchase," section of the settlement.

N-9. JONATHAN SWIFT HOUSE

ca. 1828. Old Greenwood Road north of Ridge Road

This two-and-a-half story center-chimneyed Federal style house is significant for its boldly-framed fan doorway, well-preserved sheds, and original French wallpaper decorating one of the first-floor parlors. Located in a remote district of Norway known as "Swift's Corner" (formerly "Fuller's Corner"), the rather



sophisticated residence may have been built for use as an inn by Jonathan Swift, who in the 1820s through the 1850s ran a store across the road from the house. Active in county politics, Swift was also a town selectman and assessor; in later years he served as the town's representative to the state legislature and as a member of the state senate. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the property came into the possession of John Adams French, retired founder of the *Boston Herald*. In this century the house was restored and used as a vacation home by Elmer Hussey. The Swift House is one of the few remaining early nineteenth century structures at this once-busy Norway hamlet.

N-10. URIAH HOLT HOUSE

ca. 1810 and later. Ridge Road

An interesting example of a Federal style county residence which retains the massiveness of earlier, Colonial houses found in the state's older-settled areas, this two-and-a-half story structure features a broad five-bay facade set high on a split granite foundation. At the center of the facade is an unusual Federal doorway with semi-circular wood fan, rectangular side louvers, framing pilasters, and sidelights, all clustered on one wall of a separate entrance vestibule with low-pitched roof. Built for Uriah Holt, a surveyor, the house, though altered, displays a number of intriguing architectural features. Though only one of the massive original chimneys remains, much of the wainscoting and several of the original mantels exist in the house's principal rooms. Surprisingly, the two chimney plan does not indicate a central hall arrangement, as one might expect. Instead, the vestibule gives access through separate doors to two amply-proportioned rooms that fill three quarters of the house's depth. At the center rear of the building is a stair hall



finished in vertical boards, with small rooms located to either side. The plan of the second story follows that of the floor below.

Uriah Holt was overseer at one time of the Maine properties of Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. Prominent in Norway town affairs, he also served four terms as the town's representative to the state legislature. Following Holt's death, the property, located at the crest of one of the town's many hills, was purchased by William Cox, a trader in Norway Village; it remains today in the hands of Cox's descendants.

N-11. PIERCE HOUSE

ca. 1811, 1890s. Jack Heath Road

Demonstrating the evolution of housing needs of one of Norway's early families, the Pierce House began as a story-and-a-half Cape built around 1811 by William Pierce, a New Gloucester native who arrived in the northern part of the town that year. In the 1890s, the modest home that had served two generations of the family was completely remodeled in a vernacular Queen Anne style, a reconstruction that all but removed any evidence of the original structure. Set back from the road and located on a slight rise, the Pierce House retains its Victorian characteristics, including a centrally-located wall dormer at the third story attic level, and a pair of tall interior chimneys straddling the steeply-pitched roof.

A short distance north of the Pierce House is the Pingree-Merrill House, a five-bay center-chimney Cape dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Extending off the left-hand gable end wall is a two-and-a-half story ell, which during most of the nineteenth century served as a shed with sleeping loft above. The older part of the structure retains its transomed doorway framed in narrow wooden pilasters.



N-12. WRIGHT HOUSE

1925. Greenwood Road

This modest example of a Spanish Colonial Revival house was built in 1925 and is one of the few in this style ever raised in Oxford County. During the greatest popularity of this architectural motif (approximately 1915 to 1940), numerous buildings appeared throughout the country which attempted to re-create the arcaded porches, tiled roofs, and arched, inset doorways of earlier structures built in the American Southwest and in Mexico. The better examples tend to carry simplified Renaissance style detailing; in Maine, buildings in this mode were almost always restricted to an urban setting, though interesting examples still exist along Maine's coast and within several inland resort communities.

The Wright House features a U-shaped plan with walls of well-laid rubble stone capped with a distinctive pantile hip roof; the roof is broken at almost every plane with hip-roofed dormers, again covered in tiles. On the facade wall, the central bay projects forward slightly and provides for the inset arched doorway framed in brick; the first story windows of the one-and-a-half story house are also framed in brick. The interior of the house, as intriguing as the outside, contains stuccoed walls, arched doorways, and fieldstone fireplaces, including one with a large granite mantel bearing the date the house was completed. Surrounded by stone walls and fronted with a semi-elliptical driveway, the Wright House is a most unusual construction set in a rural, wooded location.

N-13. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1840. Ridge Road at Norway Center

This clapboard-covered vernacular Gothic Revival church was erected in 1840 to replace an earlier meetinghouse built in 1808-09 on land donated to the



Congregationalists (organized in 1802) by Major Jonathan Cummings, a large landholder in this part of Norway. With its closed gable pediment framing a broad, semi-elliptical louvered fan, the building also reflects subtle influences from the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Three bays deep, its tall windows capped with louvered panels in the form of pointed arches, the church was constructed as a smaller, more practical assembly place as compared with the barn-like form of the old meetinghouse. Like other county churches built after the Federal period, the Norway Center church has a square two-stage tower placed on the roof ridge directly in line with the southern facade wall; both tower stages are ornamented with crenellation and have small wooden spires at each corner. The belfry stage displays pointed-arch louvered openings and wooden corner quoining.

The site of the First Congregational Church, up the hill from the location of Norway's Town House (built in 1838 and demolished around 1895 after several year's use as a cider mill), was an early civic focus. After 1850, the development of Norway Village overtook that at the Center, and the Second Congregational Church (see N-28) was organized in 1853. The Norway Center church was renovated in 1893 and again in 1898 when the pew doors were removed and the kitchen wing added, respectively. Opened for services each summer, the building has recently undergone a partial restoration, including the replacement of much of the tower ornamentation.

N-14. WATSON-KNIGHTLY FARMSTEAD

ca. 1835-40. Watson Road

This well-sited connected farmstead overlooking open fields and the waters of Hobbs Pond was built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century a short distance west of the once-active village of Norway Center. Preserved intact amid fields and woods, the multi-unit structure is a fine representative of a typical



nineteenth century county farmstead built before the Civil War. The main house consists of a story-and-a-half five-bay brick Cape with granite window lintels, a transomed doorway, and two end chimneys on the east gable wall. A story-and-a-half wooden ell with two cross-gable dormers and an open porch supported with bracketed posts extends in a westerly direction. Beyond the ell and at a right angle to it is a large clapboard covered "New England barn." Appearances suggest that the shed-roofed connection between the barn and ell was a later addition, and that the barn stood detached when originally constructed. The property continued to be farmed well into this century, and the buildings themselves remain much as they were when first raised.

East of this hillside location stands the Noyes-Watson House, a substantial side-hall Greek Revival house whose ell is a much earlier Cape moved to this location, as one source gave it, "from up in the field." Ward Noyes of Andover, Massachusetts, came to Norway around 1800 and in 1815 erected the older section of this house a short distance away. A carpenter and joiner, as well as farmer, Noyes built many of the earliest houses in the western part of town; his brother, David Noyes, was the author of *Norway's first History* in 1852. Around the time of Noyes' death in 1822 (the result, many said, of being struck a few years earlier by lightning), the house was purchased by Daniel Watson who built the larger two-and-a-half story section sometime in the 1840s. Watson's father, Eliphalet Watson, was the fifth settler of Gorham, Maine, a participant at the Siege of Boston in 1775-76, and a later resident of Norway, living with his son until his death in 1812 (he is buried in the nearby Norway Center Cemetery, as are numerous other Revolutionary War veterans). While the oldest section of the house has lost its center chimney and much of its interior woodwork, it still retains two of its small windows, to the right of the entrance door. The exterior of the later addition features six-over-six paned windows, boldly proportioned paneled corner pilasters, and a slightly inset doorway with shouldered architrave trim, paneled door, and full sidelights.

N-15. WILLIAM FROST HOUSE ("Buck House")

ca. 1815. Buck Road off Shedd Road

This clapboard-covered two-room-deep Cape built early in the nineteenth century is one of the finest surviving structures of its type in the town. Retaining many of its original features, including fine interior moldings and a pilastered entrance doorway with transom light, the Frost House once served as the center of a prosperous farmstead; a somewhat later connecting ell and large detached gable-roofed barn remain standing on the property. Sometime before the turn-of-the-century, the massive brick center chimney was replaced with the smaller scaled example seen today. In recent years, an effort has been made to carefully preserve the historic fabric of this early rural homestead.

**N-16. AMOS HOBBS HOUSE**

ca. 1805, ca. 1840. Route 118

This one-room-deep, two-and-a-half story, center-chimneyed house was built by Amos Hobbs, one of Norway's original settlers and a Revolutionary soldier from Gray who served in the disastrous Penobscot Expedition of 1779. The house has a three-bay facade, less common than the five-bay type. The original kitchen fireplace and oven are intact in the room to the right of the front door, though the wooden sheathing of the fireplace wall has been removed. Of interest also on the interior is the plain wide-board wainscoting to be found in the two principal rooms of the first floor. A generation or so after the house's construction, its simple lines were somewhat altered; the projecting gable eaves, flat window moldings, and sidelighted entrance doorway with full entablature and framing pilasters are the most noticeable results of this later Greek Revival embellishment.

N-17. NORWAY LAKE SCHOOLHOUSE

ca. 1868, 1907, 1975. Route 118

Standing between the road and Lake Penneesseewassee, this wood frame gable-roofed school ("District Number Five") is an interesting example of a once-common building type which is still used for classroom purposes. The building has a pair of transomed entry doors on the west gable end, and a bank of two-over-two paned windows along the south wall. The clapboarded building was slightly remodeled in 1907, and again when it became the center of a Head Start program in 1975. The town made use of the structure from 1868 until the spring of 1967.

Further north along Route 118 and on the opposite site of the road once stood the rambling eclectic-designed forty-room mansion of noted author and physicist Charles Asbury Stephens. Along with his second wife, the operatic diva Madame Scalar (see P-12), Stephens entertained scores of influential society members at what local residents called "The Laboratory." The towered and turreted local landmark remained on its site overlooking the lake until demolished during the summer of 1953.

**N-18. NATHANIEL BENNETT HOUSE**

ca. 1795. Crockett Ridge Road

Anthony and Nathaniel Bennett, twin brothers born in New Gloucester in 1770, came to Rustfield in 1790 and selected adjacent farmsteads east of the "Great Pond" (Penneesseewassee Lake). Nathaniel Bennett, who chose the more northerly of the two hillside tracts, probably erected a temporary log shelter which was soon replaced by the present foursquare, two-and-a-half story, wood

frame house with two massive interior chimneys. A prosperous farmer, justice of the peace, and lieutenant in the "North Company" of a militia regiment made up of men from Norway, Paris, Greenwood, and Woodstock, Nathaniel Bennett raised his substantial residence along the familiar lines of New Gloucester's massive late eighteenth century Colonial houses. Of architectural importance within this well-maintained structure are several early features, including paneled fireplace walls in the two first floor front rooms, wide board wainscoting across the lower half of numerous walls, and a spacious center hall sheathed in horizontal planks. The rather plain entablatured facade doorway with sidelights is a design found on several other early houses in the area. Likewise, the multi-paned windows seem to have survived two centuries of use retaining much of their original character.

The Nathaniel Bennett House may have been built by Anthony Bennett, Nathaniel's brother, who was a successful carpenter, builder, and millwright; portions of Anthony's 1790s house still stand a short distance south. Upon Nathaniel Bennett's death in 1855, his own house passed to the Millett family.

N-19. PIKE-ROBERTS HOUSE

ca. 1815-25. Don Wood Road

This hip-roofed, five-bay, two-story house, with a center chimney that is currently being restored, was built by Henry Pike, son of the early settler Dudley Pike (see N-20). The main block is only one room deep, a common feature in Federal style residences built in the county during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century. The first floor room to the right of the entry hall has fine Federal style woodwork, while that to the left has a fireplace wall of panels in plain eighteenth century style (similar to that found in the Dudley Pike House). New twelve-over-twelve and twelve-over-eight paned sash has been added by the present owner. Early in the twentieth century the property was operated as an experimental farm by Thaddeus Roberts, who once served as director of Maine's Department of Agriculture.

N-20. DUDLEY PIKE HOUSE

1803. Pike's Hill Road

Built by one of Norway's earliest settlers, Dudley Pike, who came to the area in 1787, this gable-roofed two-and-a-half story house has lost its original large center chimney, but retains many other early features. On the exterior, delicate moldings frame windows small in scale for the rather broad facade, and a delicate beading course edges the cornice. The transom light above the door is a modern reconstruction of the original design. Inside, the wainscoting of the principal rooms remains, together with some vertical plank walls. The fireplace walls of three first story and two second story rooms are also intact, constructed with



broad field panels of pine and simply framed in eighteenth century style. The house lacks its original ell and sheds. The present gambrel-roofed barn was constructed in the 1930s after the old one was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire.

N-21. SMITH-WALKER FARMSTEAD

1790s, ca. 1820. Walker Road

The main portion of this connected grouping is a fairly simple center-hall two-and-a-half story house. Built into one corner of it, and continuing to the rear, is what probably was the original dwelling on the property, raised by Joshua Smith who settled in Rustfield in 1791 from his former home in New Gloucester. Legend has it that Smith brought the first seed potatoes to the settlement and, planting them on "burnt ground," raised fifty bushels in one season. The farm was sold early in the nineteenth century to Joseph Bradbury, who most likely built the main house; Federal style mantels remain in several of the principal rooms. The present Greek Revival trim on windows and doors indicates a later remodeling which was a modest attempt at maintaining then-current trends in architectural design. The large barn, built in 1912, replaces an earlier barn which stood to its right.

N-22. SOLOMON MILLETT HOUSE

1790s, 1810, 1853. Brackett Road

This substantial two-and-a-half story house with Greek Revival decorative elements was built as a hip-roofed house in 1810. The central chimney was retained when a new gabled roof was put on in 1853; it is very likely that the fine

front entrance, wide corner boards, and other trim in a Grecian motif were added at the same time. The ell of the house probably dates from the last decade of the eighteenth century. According to one source, it was built nearby as the first home of Solomon Millett (who arrived in Rustfield in 1789) and was moved to become the ell of the main house in 1810.



N-23. CUMMINGS-EASTON HOUSE

1908. Highland Avenue (Pike's Hill)

This two-and-a-half story mansion, set into a very steep hillside, overlooks the village of Norway from a commanding site. The house displays a large columned facade portico, and a columned porch on the east side; the structure shares the large size of the Jones House on Pleasant Street (see N-26), but differs from it in turning towards a more distinctive use of modern design elements and materials, and a more monumental scale. The portico is raised on a base of rusticated concrete blocks, a material that also provides the exposed foundation of the house and the base and parapets of the side porch. The tracery of the upper window sash and the shallow angled bays are also characteristic early modern decorative features. The bracketed cornice, entablatured window heads, and heavy columns are all elements of Beaux Arts Classicism, popular in the country from about 1890 to 1920. Probably the most remarkable of the design elements is the pierced grille which substitutes for an architrave within the portico. The stable behind the house is of Queen Anne design, with patterned shingles, hipped roof, and a windowed cupola. The house was built for Edwin Cummings of the local C. B. Cummings woodworking firm.

N-24. STONE-GOODSPEED HOUSE

1893-94, 1896. Highland Avenue

A decoratively rich asymmetrical design of two-and-a-half stories, with a separate stable to the rear, this substantial house was built by carpenter George Merrill for Fred P. Stone, a Norway druggist. Built on a hillside site that commands a wide view of Norway Village below, the house has a long porch across its main facade; the porch was applied in an attempt to unify the complex design of projecting and receding elements, the most obvious of which are the variety of roof dormers and the corner tower on the end toward the village. Together with the two more conventional Shingle style houses above it, the run of buildings provides an interesting example of housing tastes of the well-to-do in turn-of-the-century Norway.

Just below the Stone-Goodspeed House, on the southeast corner of Orchard Street, is the Alfred S. Kimball House, built about the same time but on a more modest scale. Kimball was a successful Norway lawyer and representative to the state legislature.

N-25. EBENEZER HOBBS HOUSE

ca. 1820. Water Street

Built by a son of Amos Hobbs, one of Norway's earliest settlers, this one-and-a-half story three-bay Cape with dormers is recorded as one of three building in this area of town, called "Pooduck," in 1825. A blacksmith, Ebenezer Hobbs had a shop along the stream below the lake outlet. While changes to the house, including the addition of a sunporch, have given it a somewhat modern, "suburban" look, the exterior of the early ell and sheds remains along the Highland Avenue side of the structure.

N-26. WILLIAM FROST JONES HOUSE

1896. Pleasant Street.

Built under the direction of Charles H. Adams, this two-and-a-half story symmetrically arranged Colonial Revival mansion includes as flanking elements a pillared sunporch on one side and a distinctive porte cochere on the other. Curved bays the full height of the wall frame the decoratively embellished central entrance, a well-scaled composition with semi-elliptical fan and sidelights with tracery, fronted by a columned porch. Another door with sidelights at the second story opens onto the porch's balustraded roof. At the level of the steeply hipped roof, a Palladian window is centered within a large gabled dormer. Strict symmetry is compromised by the hipped dormer projecting on the south side of the roof, and by the rear portion of the house, which projects beyond the major wall on the side with the porte cochere. Within the house, the sequence of vestibule, hall, and lavishly detailed stairway is a notable use of space. The house



also contains an octagonal room. The building is set back from Pleasant Street on a curving drive beyond a screen of trees. Standing adjacent to the residence is a separate stable, built with a pavilion-like entrance on the flush-boarded facade wall; the structure also boasts an arched doorway with keystone and pediment, and several bulls-eye windows.

Similar in its use of design elements to the Gehring Clinic at Bethel (see B-13), the Jones House was built for Mrs. Kate Frost Jones, a Norway native who married Otis Norcross Jones, a Boston merchant. Mrs. Jones gave it as a wedding gift to her son William Frost Jones and his wife. The younger Jones, a lawyer, later became superintendent of the Norway schools and judge of the Norway municipal court.

N-27. RICHARD EVANS HOUSE

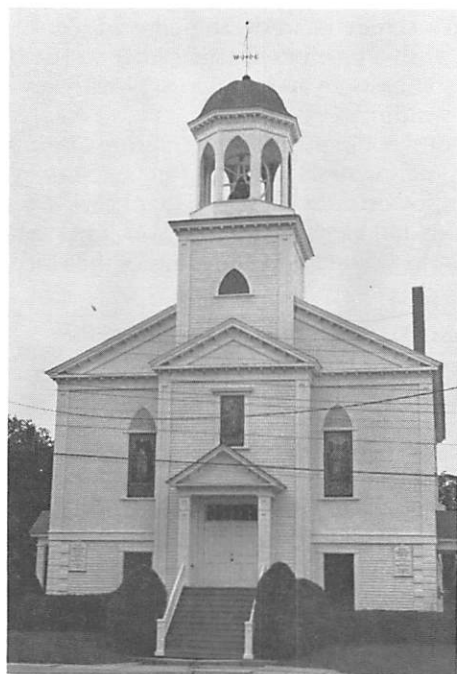
ca. 1833. Pleasant Street

Built by Richard Evans, a Portland native and contractor who came to Norway Village during its early period of growth, this high-posted Cape with attached dependencies forms an unusually complete nineteenth century farmstead within the later Victorian development of the village. The dormered, five-bay facade of the Cape has a central entrance doorway with sidelights, louvered wood fan, and extremely awkward pedimented door hood. Facing in a southerly direction, away from the street, the house is set on a high granite foundation and retains its original sheathing of narrow "feathered" clapboards. The stepped-back, wandering character of the ell and sheds is of vernacular design interest, as is the spacious yard before the house. In the 1850s, Evans moved to Main Street where he built what is commonly referred to today as the Fred Cummings House (see N-28).

N-28. MAIN STREET

Route 117 off Route 26

Extending from the outlet of Lake Pennesseewassee to its junction with Route 26 at Fair Street, Norway Village's Main Street is the town's commercial center and also includes within its bounds a number of architecturally significant residential, religious, and civic structures dating from the early nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Several areas of the street were rebuilt following major fires in 1851, 1882, and 1894. During the latter catastrophe, much of the west side, and a portion of the east, were completely destroyed. In recent years, the street's prevailing nineteenth and early twentieth century character has become increasingly jeopardized by the demolition of local architectural landmarks, along with the construction of modern buildings that ignore the present historic streetscape. The encroachment of "strip development," such as that west of nearby Market Square at South Paris (see P-13), promises a challenge to local planners concerned with Main Street's unique architectural character.



First Universalist Church

On the northern end and eastern side of the street, just below the Pleasant Street corner, is the First Universalist Church, a Federal style structure designed and erected by Ezra F. Beal of Norway in 1829. In 1865 Beal raised the building

and constructed beneath it the space long known as "Concert Hall," where town meetings and various other public gatherings took place for many years. During this rebuilding, the two doors of the projecting entrance pavilion were replaced by a single, centrally-located doorway. An Italianate finish of brackets and quoins was also added at the time. The pointed-arch openings of the belfry are capped by an octagonal dome, now crowned with a weathervane. In earlier times, a slender spire rose from the dome. The church's interior retains the coved ceiling of the original design.



Cummings House

South of the church is the street's most conspicuous Federal style two-story wood frame house, in this case an example with a five-bay facade and hipped roof. Raised around 1800 and substantially rebuilt about 1818 for Increase Robinson, a Norway trader, the house was owned from 1832 to 1859 by "Squire" William Clark Whitney (see O-24), a prominent Oxford County landowner. In the twentieth century, the house has been the residence of members of the Cummings family, owners of the local woodworking firm of C. B. Cummings and Sons. The house is distinguished by a fine fan doorway with sidelights, and windows with twelve-over-twelve lights.

Adjacent to the Cummings House is the Mark P. Smith House built circa 1830 and now the headquarters of the Norway Historical Society. Moved to this location in 1978, the one-and-a-half story high-posted Cape with a semi-elliptical wooden fan over the main facade entrance originally stood at the southeast corner of Danforth and Main streets. The Historical Society uses the structure as both a meeting site and exhibit area.

The porch-fronted house on the southeast corner of Whitman and Main streets is a much-altered structure of 1806 that was initially the home of Luther Farrar, a lawyer, and subsequently of Farrar's son-in-law, Levi Whitman, also a lawyer. The

two-and-a-half story house was originally built with a hipped roof and fan doorway, typical of the county's early Federal style domestic architecture. Under the ownership of Henry J. Bangs, a storekeeper who bought the property in the 1890s, the building was enlarged and renovated in a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. During the same period of time, Bangs erected the adjacent store building, for many years Jackson's Bakery.



Longley Store (center)

Further down on the east side is an important group of three gable-to-the-street commercial buildings. A bracketed Italianate facade now fronts the store built in the first or second decade of the nineteenth century for William Cox, a Norway trader. The structure was rebuilt in 1851-52 for carriage maker Charles P. Kimball and was later used as a hardware store. Next door is the brick store occupied by L. M. Longley and Son, erected in 1867 for Thomas Crooker, who dealt in hardware on this site during the second half of the nineteenth century. Built as an adaptation of popular Greek Revival designs, the building has large display windows framed with granite, multi-paned windows with granite sills and lintels, and a closed gable-end pediment framing a granite-silled semi-circular attic window. With its long line of sheds to the rear, the Longley building is one of the most distinctive commercial structures of its period surviving in the county. From the late 1890s until 1938, the second floor of the building housed Norway's library. Completing the trio of gable-fronted shops is a vernacular building erected most likely in the early 1870s. The Longley store and the shop to its right were deeded in trust to the town on the death of Crooker's heirs in 1938.

On the block below are the vernacular Greek Revival "Weary Club" building (1926), the headquarters of a venerable Norway institution, and the blocky Georgian Revival Key Bank, constructed as the Norway National Bank in 1927-28 from the designs of Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs.



commercial block, Norway Water District (r)

Between Cottage Street and Danforth Street several important nineteenth century structures remain. The small Pike Store, displaying ornate wooden Victorian signage, was built in 1886. The adjacent commercial block was raised about 1850, most likely by local builder Ezra F. Beal. The two-and-a-half story frame structure has Italianate cornice brackets, a board-and-batten second story street facade, and Greek Revival storefronts at the first floor level. It is connected to a small (ca. 1860) gable-to-the-street wooden commercial structure (now the Norway Water District Office) by a distinctive wooden fence. The Colonial Revival U.S. Post Office, built between 1940 and 1943, is a trim combination of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival motifs. To its right is the two-and-a-half story Federal style brick house built around 1830 for Dr. Asa Danforth. With its fan doorway inset behind a semi-elliptical arch of brick at the facade's center, the Danforth House is a well-preserved example of the village's early development as a residential and business center. A similar brick house, dating from about the same time, once stood on the site of the Post Office. South of the Danforth House stands a narrow, but grandly proportioned frame store building displaying an exuberant Victorian facade in the Queen Anne style. The building, which stands essentially as built, dates to around 1898.

The 1894 village fire destroyed all the buildings on the east side of the street below Tannery Brook, adjacent to the present Norway Fire Station. Among the more notable buildings raised after the fire are the 1895 car barn of the Norway and Paris Street Railway (now fronted by a low brick office building long used by Central Maine Power Company), the turreted, cross-gabled vernacular Shingle style house (ca. 1900) on the Marston Street corner, and the school buildings that hold the Paris Street corner.

Designed by architect E. E. Lewis of Gardiner, and built by Charles H. Adams, the 1894 two-and-a-half story, hip-roofed Norway Elementary School stands on a slight rise above Main Street. The Queen Anne style school structure, erected as



Danforth House (1)



Norway Elementary School

Norway's high school after the fire, displays a towered projecting pavilion on its west-facing facade. A major architectural landmark in the village, the school was later supplanted in its function as a high school by the Georgian Revival structure next door, now the Guy E. Rowe Elementary School (1928-29). The architects for the newer building were Miller, Mayo, and Beal of Portland. (The 1894 Norway school structure was unfortunately razed while this book was in press.)

Standing on the opposite side of Paris Street is the Second Congregational Church, built in 1894 to replace a church structure further down the street destroyed in the fire. As in the older Norway high school, E. E. Lewis was the architect here, and Charles H. Adams, the builder. Constructed in the prevailing



Charles H. Adams House

Queen Anne style, the church is sheathed in a combination of shingles and clapboard. The major space within the building is octagonal in shape, with a vaulted ceiling. Below the church stands the Charles H. Adams House, built by contractor Adams in 1896 as his own residence. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne design includes an angled bay window in the upstreet corner, a second story that projects beyond the first story wall on one side, and sheathing of clapboards with a shallow panel of vertical boarding as a course at the top of the wall to separate the roof gables, sheathed in patterned shingles, from the rest of the composition. The elaborate wooden frieze and railing of the front porch is notable, as is the distinctive hovering effect of the cross-gabled roof, undergirded by long brackets that give the effect of decoratively-treated rafter ends.

Adams was important in Norway Village's post-1894 fire building effort. He built the new high school (see above), the Second Congregational Church next door, the brick barns of the Norway and Paris Street Railway, and the Jones House on Pleasant Street (see N-26). Adams constructed a house for himself on lower Main Street when he moved from Bethel to Norway.

The gable-roofed three-bay Brown House stands further south and was most likely built around 1900. The structure is unusual in that it combines decorative elements of late Victorian style with those of the Colonial Revival period. Notable for its distinctive facade entry porch with Chippendale-like balustrade, the house also features sets of three windows framed together on the first floor, circular bosses along the frieze of the entablature, and a side porch similar to that attached to the front. The house may have been built by C. H. Adams.

Below the modern Stephens Memorial Hospital which, in its recent expansion efforts, was forced to raze a mansard-roofed Victorian residence of major significance to the streetscape, stands the massive wooden Pike House, an eclectic Victorian structure which may date to the mid-1870s. The three-story, clapboard-sheathed house has an octagonal corner tower with tent roof, a heavily

denticulated cornice, simple Greek Revival corner moldings, and a partial mansard roof.



Partridge House

On the opposite side of Main Street, the Lower Primary Schoolhouse, a story-and-a-half gable-to-the-street structure built in 1854, has an exterior appearance that remains little changed from its original design. The schoolhouse boasts a projecting gable-roofed entry with a transomed doorway. Two important examples of the Bungalow style exist further up the street. The George Sanborn House, the more southerly of the two, was built in 1924 and is a fine example of an "Alladin Pre-fab House," available in the earlier part of this century from widely-distributed catalogs. The story-and-a-half structure has shingle-covered walls, a broad front porch whose roof is integral with the house roof, and a series of exposed rafter ends supported by large wooden brackets. North of the Sanborn House, the Partridge House is a somewhat larger example of the type, with a steeply-pitched gable roof, large second story dormer with three windows framed together, and an open porch on the street facade featuring large tapered porch posts supporting a roof with exposed rafters. A simple but functional residence, the Partridge House was completed in 1916 and remains today with a covering of dark-stained wood shingles.

The west side of Main Street, from the Paris Street corner towards the lake outlet, as far as the present Opera House, is almost a complete rebuilding following the 1894 fire. Notable in the small group of commercial buildings south of Greenleaf Avenue is the paneled facade of a circa 1894 store building whose second story first housed the GAR and now provides space for the Knights of Pythias. On the block above is the Neoclassical Norway Memorial Library, built in 1938 by Philip Wight of Norway from designs by William B. Coffin of the Boston architectural firm of Sturgis Associates. Of water-struck brick laid in Flemish bond, the Library has a classic Doric portico displaying mutules and triglyphs in a

broad entablature; the main roof behind the pedimented facade displays a tall temple-like cupola. At the Danforth Street corner is the Dr. Frank N. Barker House; its cylindrical tower with conical roof was added years after completion of the rest of the structure.



Dr. Frank N. Barker House

The design of the brick commercial buildings raised just above Danforth Street after the fire includes a variety of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Romanesque Revival motifs. That furthest north, long used as a drug store, was planned by a New Hampshire architect named Moulton; the same man may have designed the adjacent brick buildings as well. That on the southern end was long the site of the Tucker Harness Store.

Set back from the street above the brick stores is the Isaac Denison House (ca. 1852), one of the few buildings on this side of the street to survive the 1894 fire. Its Victorian porches with turned posts date from before the fire. Owner C. L. Hathaway added the present centrally-positioned tower with third story balcony at a later date.

Notable in the line of commercial structures standing north of the Denison-Hathaway House is the wooden facade of the building originally the S. B. and Z. S. Prince Store, now Margo's; it was constructed in 1896. The upper stories of the brick Odd Fellows Block were added in 1910 to a single story of stores built immediately following the 1894 fire.

The most architecturally significant late nineteenth century structure remaining on Main Street, the Opera House Block, was designed by E. E. Lewis of Gardiner, built by Joseph Philbrook of Livermore, and completed late in 1894. Like "Norway Hall," a massive hip-roofed wooden building designed by George M. Coombs of Lewiston which stood on this site before the fire, the present Opera House includes stores at street level and a large hall above. The 1894 Lewis design includes a pyramidally-capped tower which houses the town clock, purchased by



Opera House Block

citizen contributions. At the base of the tower, framing the entrance to the hall above, is an elaborate Romanesque Revival arch of cut and molded brick appearing on a somewhat smaller scale than the adjacent storefronts.



1882-83 commercial block

The unique log facade and carved signs of Woodman's Store, next north of the Opera House, date from the 1930s. The elaborately trimmed three-story commercial block upstreet from it was built in its present form in 1882-83. The hooded window moldings are similar to those found in the few examples of Gothic Revival domestic architecture surviving in the county. On the southern corner of Bridge and Main streets, beyond a Greek Revival commercial block of the 1850s, is a gable-roofed store built in the first or second decade of the nineteenth century as a hip-roofed structure.



New Grange Block (1), Advertiser-Democrat Building

The Advertiser-Democrat Building, on the opposite corner, was built as a two-story structure around 1848. The first floor was used as a shoe store, and later as the first office of the Norway Savings Bank. At one time the Masonic Lodge met above. After the building was purchased in 1877 by the grange, the structure was raised to three stories. The cove-ceilinged grange hall, stenciled and painted with grange symbols, still exists on the top floor. The adjacent three-story building on Bridge Street, the New Grange Block, was built in 1887 and also contains a hall on its third story. In recent years a blocky brick extension has replaced a wood frame house which stood directly behind the Advertiser-Democrat Building; the latter has also been connected to the New Grange Block by an extremely awkward wood and glass entry which unfortunately ignores the earlier character and architectural fabric. Since the 1880s, the offices of the *Norway* (sometimes *Oxford County*) *Advertiser*, and since 1933, of the *Advertiser-Democrat*, have been located here.

The marvelously towered house beyond the Bridge Street corner was built in the 1850s by Richard Evans and was elaborated to its present form in the late 1880s. The latter alterations were carried out by local builder John B. Hazen, for Fred Cummings, of the local woodworking family. Its use of decorative elements



Fred Cummings House

from almost every style of the Victorian era make the Cummings House a prominent and valuable architectural landmark for Norway's Main Street.

Above the Cummings House is the 1866 Greek Revival Upper Primary Schoolhouse, now the Lajos Matolcsy Art Center. While the interior of the building has been taken over for exhibit and studio areas, the exterior, with its banks of six-over-six paned windows, well-defined gable pediment, and semi-circular attic window, appears much as it always has. The one-and-a-half story cottage with Greek Revival window moldings, between the Upper Primary and the lake outlet, was known for many years as "the tanner's house." The tannery of Mixer and Watson once stood close to the stream in this vicinity. Twelve-over-eight lights in the sash at the rear of the two-and-a-half story building below the tanner's house, and the shape of this large building's rear wing, support the notion that the dwelling was probably made from an early industrial structure which made use of the waters flowing from the lake.

N-29. CUMMINGS-GREENE HOUSE

1886. Whitman Street

This cross-gabled Victorian designed residence, with an octagonal tower element springing from the front portion, was built as a two-family dwelling for Stephen and Edwin Cummings of the local woodworking family. The architect and builder was John B. Hazen. Decorative banding and bracketing in Eastlake style, pierced semi-circular bargeboards within the triangles of the side gables, bay windows, and an elaborate railing of wood around the five-sided porch all contribute to the house's eclectic appearance. A local newspaper, in the year of the house's construction, described it as being "in the Mikado style of



architecture." The angled roofs of the multi-sided porch, the five-sided second story of the front block, and the octagonal tower room (itself topped by an octagonal roof with a decorative finial), create the distinctive "pagoda" effect. Hazen, the architect, returned to Norway in 1885 from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he had worked as a builder.



Norway Grange building

Across the street, the Norway Grange, built in 1909 by contractors Russell and Dinsmore, is a Colonial Revival structure of two stories sheathed in dark-stained shingles on the second story and wooden clapboards on the first. Above the pillared porch, a tripart window at the center of the second story and a decoratively framed opening in the semi-pedimented facade gable add flourishes

to this hip-roofed building. With stained-glass lighting the stair hall, this structure is one of the most elaborate in the county built specifically for grange use. Within, the major spaces include a dining room and kitchen facilities on the first level and a fraternal hall on the second. The latter has a stage whose canvas flats are paintings of scenes at Pennesseevassee Lake (Norway Lake) commissioned by Norway artist Vivian Akers. The building is surmounted with an eight-sided ventilator with domical roof and spire. The building is similar to the Paris Grange (1913) on Maple Street off Market Square in South Paris Village.

N-30. BARTLETT HOUSE

ca. 1845. Deering Street

One of the very few board-and-batten sheathed houses built in Oxford County during the nineteenth century, this two-and-a-half story structure of side-hall plan is unusual in that it has its gable end to the side, necessitating the ice guards that presently edge the roof; the hood over the entrance door is probably later than the house's original construction. Besides its wall sheathing, the board course between the two major stories (suggesting the possibility of a now-missing porch) is notable, as are the windows, hooded in the simple fashion suggested by Andrew Jackson Downing in his writings of the 1840s and 1850s. With its later ell and barns standing at a right angle to the house, and with its original ell raised to two stories, the structure presents an awkward appearance; even in its original form, the house seems to have been a local builder's exercise in an unfamiliar style.

N-31. ENOCH KNIGHT HOUSE

ca. 1840. Deering Street

An important Greek Revival structure in Norway Village, this one-and-a-half story double house has porches with square posts which replace the original fluted Doric columns. Entrances flanked by sidelights are within the porch on either side of the main block. The building contains two separate stair halls, back to back, and two formal parlors with windows to the floor and temple-like enframements on the stove openings. Subsidiary gables on either side of the building are fully treated in a blocky Greek Revival style, with wide paneled corner pilasters, raking cornices, and returns. Behind the side gables on each side is a pedimented dormer within the roof. The house was extended to the left, possibly after Amos Noyes purchased the entire structure in 1880.

Next door is the James O. Crooker House built around 1865. Long the home of a noted Norway tinsmith and hardware dealer, this two-and-a-half story house with a side-hall plan is a well-preserved example of later vernacular Greek Revival style. Its decorative elements are much lighter and more schematic than those of the

adjacent Knight House; the proportions of the house seem to make the architectural statement. The ell was raised from one story to two at some point in the house's history, and the gable end of the barn turned to face the street. The property is owned by the town, under a trust left by Crooker.

N-32. SANBORN SHOE CORPORATION (Norway Shoe Factory)
1895. Lynn and Beal streets

The "Great Fire" of May 9, 1894 destroyed much of the Main Street area of Norway Village. Consumed in this last of a series of major fires were the Opera House, the Congregational Church, about eighty dwellings, and numerous businesses, including a tannery and a large box factory. In response to this economic disaster, the citizens of the town subscribed some \$18,000 to build this three-story wooden shoe factory, which today remains as one of the largest wooden industrial structures in Oxford County. With its long rows of multi-paned windows and protruding brick firewalls, the nearly flat-topped structure serves as a reminder of Norway's late nineteenth century struggle for survival. Of vernacular design interest, this now-empty factory building deserves to be spared the careless pattern of building removal that has plagued both Norway Village and South Paris Village, especially since the late 1970s.

On the opposite corner stands the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival Norway United Methodist Church built in 1880. The Methodists formed their first society in Norway in 1819 and around 1837 erected a meetinghouse on lower Main Street which was later taken over by the Congregationalists and burned in the 1894 fire. The present asymmetrically arranged church features walls of patterned shingles, small wooden supporting brackets on several areas of the corner tower, and large multi-paned windows capped with scroll-like broken pediments. The church may incorporate elements from an earlier church structure which stood near this site.

N-33. BAPTIST CHURCH
1889. Cottage Street

In 1806 a Baptist church society was organized in Norway. After many years of itinerant preaching in private homes and schoolhouses, the group purchased the old Universalist Church (now razed) near the lake outlet and held services there for several years. The period immediately after the Civil War saw a marked decline in membership, and not until the construction of the present village church was there anything like a revival.

Combining elements of the Queen Anne and Shingle styles, the Norway Baptist Church was raised during the spring and summer of 1889 and dedicated in December of that year. The structure features an asymmetrically arranged street facade with three-sided projecting pavilion and a tall corner tower with octagonal



belfry and spire. Like many other Maine churches built in a similar architectural motif, the Norway church displays a great freedom of planning, though in a more unified design than churches built strictly in the more elaborate Queen Anne style. Large wall dormers acting as cross-gables appear on each side and are major elements contributing to the steeply-pitched roof's multi-planed appearance. The structure's monochromatic shingle covering is broken by a variety of window types, many with geometric panels of colored glass; the largest windows are grouped into twos and threes. The tower base contains the building's main entry, here an inset double-doored type capped with a simple pedimented hood. Remaining essentially as built, the Baptist Church is a visually striking village landmark.

N-34. MASONIC BUILDING

1887-88. Cottage Street

Constructed from the designs of architects Francis H. Fassett and Benjamin Thompson, Norway's Masonic Building represents an architectural type that uniquely reflects the late nineteenth century aspirations of one of Oxford County's largest communities. Built with a street-level shop (long used as a furniture store), a second-story hall, and a third-story lodge room, this large frame structure makes use of decorative elements from several popular styles, most notably Colonial Revival and Queen Anne. Below the building's expansive hip roof, on the street facade, are wall segments sheathed in both patterned shingles



and clapboards; equally notable are the varied window treatments, including large plate glass windows topped with bands of small, multi-colored glass squares on the first story, a large, broad bay window at the second story, and a flattened broken pediment enframing of the window within a wall dormer on the third story. In an age when the seemingly rash destruction of many of Norway's major nineteenth century Main Street structures has taken precedence over their preservation as a significant part of the village's architectural heritage, the Masonic Building stands as a proud reminder of an earlier, more opulent era.

Next to the Masonic Building is the Kimball House (ca. 1890), a two-and-a-half story vernacular Queen Anne structure with an asymmetrical facade displaying a variety of window treatments and a three story turreted corner tower. Long used as a boarding house, the building remains essentially unaltered on the exterior. The structure provides an interesting contrast with the plainer, but equally interesting, vernacular style Mixer House standing a short distance east on the Beal Street corner.

N-35. GEORGE LAFAYETTE BEAL HOUSE DANIEL WEBSTER BEAL HOUSE

1856. Cottage Street

Erected by Norway builder Ezra F. Beal for his two sons, these matching houses of side-hall plan were constructed in a variation of the Italianate style, with low-pitched roofs, projecting eaves undergirded with modillions, and a round window within the pediment on their gabled facades.

The original board and batten sheathing of the facade above the second floor remains in the D. W. Beal House, to the left. This attic-level wall covering is divided from the remainder of the facade, which was originally clapboarded, by a band of molding. While the original wall sheathing of the G. L. Beal House is now

concealed. the wooden outline of the gable area remains and is continued around the house, under the eaves. Cornice-like lintels top the window frames. Both houses, when raised, had porches across the front. That on the D. W. Beal House disappeared years ago. That on the G. L. Beal House was later extended along the side of the structure. At one time, the G. L. Beal property was edged by an elaborate balustraded fence. The latter residence is attached to a somewhat later stable/carriage house trimmed in a style compatible with the house, including a hay loft door with a segmentally arched top, and a fanciful roof cupola.

Daniel Webster Beal kept a store in Norway for many years. His brother led Norway troops to the Civil War. In addition, George Beal emerged a brigadier general, was appointed pension agent in Portland by Grant, and served as adjutant of the Maine militia and as Maine state treasurer. The Norway Branch of the Grand Trunk Railroad was chartered and built largely through his efforts.

N-36. CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)

1897. Paris Street at Green Street

With its steep gable roof and shingled wall surfaces, Christ Church is similar in scale and general character to many Episcopal churches built in Maine at the turn-of-the-century. The building was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and built by local contractor Charles H. Adams; it, and St. Barnabas Church in Rumford (see R-23), utilize separately the two materials most normally combined in the Shingle style, shingles and natural stone. Liturgical requirements in both suggested the English country Gothic plan utilized by Episcopal parishes in America beginning in the 1830s. Planned to be much longer, the nave of the church was built only three bays in depth, with a raised choir and chancel at its end. The chancel wall has a large stained-glass window with a pointed arch; the architect's plans show a window with a Tudor arch, of somewhat more complex design than the one which was eventually built. A parish hall, constructed in a sympathetic style, was added to the southwest wall of the church in 1978-79.

Goodhue, reputedly a friend of the church's first minister, was long associated with the well-known Gothic Revivalist Ralph Adams Cram, and with him designed St. Thomas Church in New York City, and the West Point Chapel. Among his other commissions were the Gothic chapel at the University of Chicago, and the State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska.

N-37. DR. CALVIN E. EVANS HOUSE

ca. 1875. Fair Street

One of the town's finest surviving examples of a Victorian residence with original decorative trim intact, the Evans House stands on Norway's Fair Street, a short distance south of the former site of the Oxford County Fairgrounds (see



P-22). The first owner of the house, Dr. Calvin E. Evans, came to Norway from Sweden, Maine, around 1864 and established a surgical practice whose success was readily apparent in the house he had built on one of Norway's busiest thoroughfares.

Among the house's most interesting exterior features are the dormered mansard roof segments (undergirded by pairs of scrolled brackets), the gambrel end of the house with its pierced and pointed bargeboards, and the scored board wall surfaces framed with corner quoins. Highly decorated bay windows also appear on both the street facade and the side entrance wall facing south. The finish of the porch on the structure's ell and stable, with its round-arch openings, maintains the design found on the main house. The outwardly pretentious chimney piles have inset panels edged in black brick. On the first story level, the double-doored street entrance has a small bracketed porch with granite steps. A curbing of carefully finished granite encloses much of the property.

N-38. POOL-ROWE HOUSE

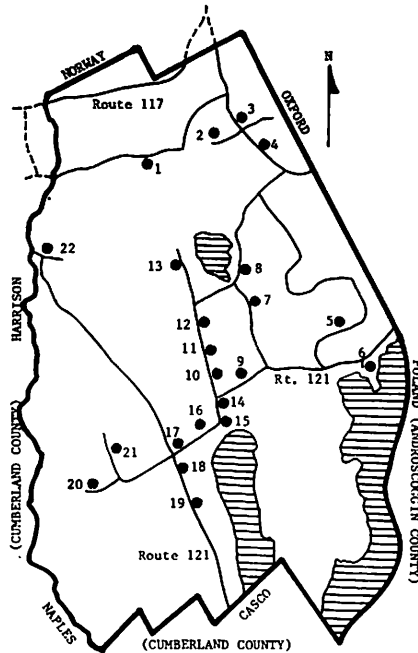
1834. Route 26 (Lower Main Street)

Situated in the "Steep Falls" section of Norway Village, the Pool-Rowe House is one of the finest brick Capes remaining in the town. Built by brick mason Thomas Pool after his attempts at erecting a frame structure with spliced timbers failed in the fury of a heavy gale, the house has a five-bay facade displaying windows and a sidelighted entrance doorway, all capped with heavy granite lintels. Set on a high foundation of split granite, the house retains its two original interior chimneys, though numerous alterations have been made to the rear ell. The house's builder was the grandson of Joshua Pool, one of the early "post riders" in the area.

The first mill constructed nearby on the "steep falls" of Pennesseewassee Stream was a carding mill erected by Bailey Bodwell in 1804. Thereafter, a series

of mills, many operating at the same time on adjacent sites, occupied the area; these included a tannery, planing mill, foundry, cider mill, gun factory, grist mill, paper pulp mill, and a novelty mill, the latter of which closed the long era of industrial development on this site when it burned in 1923. The first electric light station, providing power for Norway Village and nearby South Paris Village, was put into operation here in 1888; although this structure no longer stands, a brick power station (extant) was constructed nearby in 1894 and for many years was a source of power for the above two villages as well as the short-lived Norway and Paris Street Railway.

OTISFIELD



INTRODUCTION

Granted in 1771 to the heirs of those who served in an ill-fated expedition against Canada in 1690, Otisfield, like several other Oxford County townships, was secured as a replacement for an earlier grant (1736; now Dunbarton, N.H.) which, in the redrawing of the Massachusetts/New Hampshire boundary, fell within the latter's jurisdiction. The town "proprietors," led by James Otis and Nathaniel Gorham, remained in Massachusetts but arranged with George Peirce of Watertown to have their seven mile square township east of the Saco River and north of "Raymondtown" surveyed; the first division of lots was actually made two years later (1773).

In receiving this grant in the "District of Maine," the proprietors agreed to a number of stipulations, among them — to settle at least thirty families, to construct a meetinghouse, and to settle a "Learned Protestant Minister" — all within six years. They also hired Peirce to build the first saw and grist mills, necessities in any developing settlement. Peirce began work in 1774 and returned to Otisfield in June of the next year, bringing his young family with him; rightfully considered the first permanent settler of the town (his brick-ended, early Federal

style house of 1797 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but stands in that part of Otisfield later annexed to Naples), George Peirce performed the duties of proprietors' agent and had the settlement's first water-powered mills in operation by November 1775.

As an unorganized township, the community received the name "Otisfield" in 1776, most likely in honor of James Otis, the largest shareholder, and his brother Samuel A. Otis, the proprietors' clerk. The repeated assumption that the town was named for United States senator and Boston mayor Harrison Gray Otis (Samuel's son) seems groundless in light of the younger Otis' age (eleven years) when the name was adopted. The township achieved "plantation" status in 1787 and was incorporated as a town in 1798. The last proprietors' meeting occurred on October 20, 1802.

Though the town remains dotted with lakes and rocky hillsides, agriculture was the economic mainstay throughout its first century of existence, with a decline appearing immediately after the Civil War. As in surrounding towns, Otisfield has had its share of small mills and roadside shops, all oriented to the continued prosperity and self-sufficiency of the numerous farmsteads and villages within its boundaries. At the turn-of-the-century, major changes in transportation routes and the resulting centralization of business in the county's larger towns brought about a general decline in commercial and social activity.

Today most of the town's small shops and mills have disappeared, and the physical characteristics of Otisfield's "built environment" are defined, for the most part, by surviving examples of domestic and church architecture. Three of the county's most important structures — the Nutting Homestead, the Levi Sargent House, and the Bell Hill Meetinghouse — are outstanding examples of their type, ranking well with similar pre-1850 Maine structures. The Otisfield Historical Society, organized in 1981, has taken steps to document and research local buildings in an effort to draw attention to the town's large number of important historic buildings.

As the former most northerly town in Cumberland County, Otisfield, because of its geographic location, was long aligned with the commerce and social life of southern Oxford County. Though efforts towards a separation from Cumberland County appeared as early as the 1860s, it was not until the construction of the massive Cumberland County Civic Center in Portland (county seat) in 1977, that citizens of Otisfield carried their grievances to the state legislature. As a result, Otisfield officially became part of Oxford County on July 1, 1978.

Although Otisfield abounds in colorful and intriguing placenames, only Spurr's Corner, Bolsters Mills, and East Otisfield resemble the bustling nineteenth century hamlets they once were. The population of the town stood at 927 in 1880. The majority of today's 897 residents are in some way oriented towards economic developments in surrounding communities but, in residing here, take full advantage of the town's valuable scenic and rural qualities.

O-1. ASA ANDREWS FARMSTEAD

1853. Ryefield Bridge Road

An L-shaped brick house with wooden connecting sheds and barn, the Asa Andrews Farmstead is a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century county farmstead set in a largely unspoiled rural location. The story-and-a-half house displays multi-paned windows, and an interesting late Federal style door with wooden semi-elliptical fan and sidelights. Asa Andrews came to this upland site, where farmer Benjamin Stevens had settled in the 1790s, and erected his buildings a short distance from the old Stevens foundation. The Andrews Farmstead is significant both for its unusual arrangement (the fan doorway faces *north*), and for its nearly unaltered appearance.

A short distance west, on the border between Otisfield and Harrison, is the Ryefield Bridge, built over the Crooked River in 1912. In contrast to modern cast concrete bridges, this steel span, with its webb-like side truss system, ornate entry portals, and wood flooring, remains a unique and instructive survivor from an earlier age of technology and transportation. It exists today as one of the few extant examples of its type in western Maine.

O-2. SAWYER HOUSE

ca. 1785-89 and later. South of Route 117 off Gore Road

This substantial late eighteenth century center-chimneyed house may date to the arrival of the property's first owner, Captain Jonathan Sawyer, a Gorham, Maine, Revolutionary veteran who served through the Siege of Boston. Begun at a time when his neighbors were erecting simple log shelters and wood-framed Capes, the two-and-a-half story house probably stood unfinished at Sawyer's death in 1789 and was most likely completed by his son, David, who lived here until his own death in 1811.

Recalling the solidity of Colonial houses erected in Maine's older coastal communities, the Sawyer House, one of the first structures erected in the "Phillips Gore" section of Otisfield, has a clapboarded exterior and a broad, five-bayed facade. Among its surviving early interior features are eight working fireplaces off the massive chimney, and several walls of finely crafted field paneling. The house was partially restored in the 1960s, though the two-over-two paned sash, tall exterior shutters, and Greek Revival entrance doorway reflect modifications carried out during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

O-3. LEVI SARGENT HOUSE

ca. 1812. Otisfield Gore Road

Of major historic and architectural significance, the Levi Sargent House is a



remarkable survival of a building type closely associated with the settlement period in northwestern Maine. Constructed of squared, hewn logs averaging some ten inches high by eight inches wide, the two-story, gable-roofed structure has its origins in seventeenth century building practice, a time when log houses of mill-sawn timbers were raised throughout the New England wilderness as a practical alternative to more common "framed" houses. Beneath its clapboard sheathing, the Sargent House displays logs joined at the corners with various types of dovetailing; the construction thereby differs markedly from later "log cabins" in that no space is left between horizontal members. Significantly, both hewn *and* sawn log houses played a central role in Oxford County's early architectural development, though little physical evidence survives to document them.

Soon after 1790, Daniel Sargent, a Revolutionary veteran and Levi's father, came with his family to the "Gore," a long-disputed eight-mile tract lying on Otisfield's eastern border with Oxford (then Hebron); after a heated controversy over proprietary rights, the Gore was finally annexed to Otisfield in 1803. Like many of the county's first settlers of a quarter century before, Levi Sargent, a farmer and Methodist minister, erected his log house most likely as a temporary home, for records indicate that he lived there but a short time before moving closer to the Oxford town line.

Although somewhat altered on the interior, this rare log house retains several intriguing original features that warrant further study. The massive walls are broken by very small window openings measuring just over three feet in height. Flooring is of extremely wide pine boards, as is the roofing, which consists of vertical boards nailed to a bare minimum of roofing members. Indeed, the roof framing arrangement displays principal rafters and purlins, between which are "wind braces" pegged into place to prevent any longitudinal movement. Interestingly, most of the exposed framing members are marked with "raising numerals," an ancient method of guaranteeing quick and accurate assembly. The original triple-run staircase in the small front entry has been replaced with a single

run, now gained through the adjacent north room. The sidelighted and heavily entablatured entrance doorway was probably added some years after this one-room-deep house was raised. While the large chimney and its several fireplaces are also missing, the massive split stone base in the cellar remains, as do the half-round logs which support the first floor.

Log construction seems to have been a popular early building method in Otisfield, with documented examples built throughout the first two decades of the nineteenth century; the Abraham Lombard House ("Loten Gould House"), built ca. 1813 about a mile west of this site, was a similar, though no longer extant, example that survived well into the twentieth century. These facts seem to conflict with a theory which holds that early "garrison houses" produced no log structures in Maine other than those expressly built as eighteenth and nineteenth century fortifications. In fact, the danger of attack by French or Indians had long passed by the time the Sargent and Lombard houses were built.

Except for some as yet undocumented remnants of late-eighteenth century log construction in Fryeburg (the county's oldest-settled town), the Levi Sargent House is the only surviving example of its type in Oxford County. As such, it ranks with the few remaining eighteenth century log structures in Maine as a valuable artifact of the state's settlement period.

O-4. ELISHA LOMBARD HOUSE

ca. 1846. Otisfield Gore Road

One of several brick Capes constructed in Otisfield during the first half of the nineteenth century, the Lombard House represents, in its styling and use of materials, a marked improvement over earlier wood-framed Cape Cod houses in the area. Elisha Lombard journeyed north from Gorham, Maine, with his father's family around 1801; the site of this small but handsome residence was purchased by the family in 1810. The house displays a symmetrical five-bayed facade with six-over-six paned windows and a granite-capped, sidelighted doorway. To the rear of the main house, with its thin end-wall chimneys, is a brick ell connected to a wooden stable. A large detached barn stands just beyond.

Several members of the Lombard family, including Elisha Lombard's brothers, John and Joshua, were among the earliest settlers of the Magalloway region in northern Oxford County. Lorenzo Dow Lombard is recorded as having raised the first framed structure (ca. 1831), now the oldest part of the Aziscohos House hotel (see L-1), in Lincoln Plantation.

O-5. SPURR FARMSTEAD

1806(?), 1834, ca. 1875. Bean Road north of East Otisfield Village

William Spurr, the son of early settler Joseph Spurr, Sr. (see O-19), was living on



this upland site overlooking a broad expanse of Thompson Pond as early as 1790. Spurr resided in a log house for several years but in 1806 contracted with local carpenter and cabinetmaker Timothy Fernald to build a framed house, parts of which may be incorporated in the present structure. In 1834, Spurr hired Timothy Fernald's son, Otis, to construct the large gable-roofed barn which remains behind the house; the younger Fernald also built a cider mill nearby, possibly one of the several outbuildings (which include a carriage house/stable, and a blacksmith shop) remaining on the property.

At William Spurr's death in 1837, the farm passed to an unmarried son, Robert, who, in turn, left the property to his nephew, Llewellyn Spurr, a prominent local farmer, blacksmith, carpenter, and mason. Soon after taking possession in 1869, Llewellyn Spurr began to alter the main house, ultimately transforming it into the somewhat conspicuous mansard-roofed residence seen today. Of side-hall-plan, the story-and-a-half house displays pedimented dormers, corner quoins, rusticated wood siding, and a large first-story bay window. An open, wrap-around porch extends from the east-running, gable-roofed ell to the double-doored entry.

The last of the Spurr family to reside here was William Samuel Spurr, whose voluminous work, *A History of Otisfield, Maine* (1948), is a major source of information on this southern Oxford County town. Architecturally, the Spurr Farmstead is significant as an unusually complete nineteenth century agricultural complex displaying the detached house and barn system.

One-half mile north of the Spurr Farmstead is the Nathaniel Lamb House (1834), a high-posted center chimney Cape that is a fine example of a highly popular building form used in Oxford County from about 1820 to 1850.



O-6. "THE CAPE" (Elliot-Bean House)

1905-06 and later. Off Route 121 on Thompson Pond

This rambling multi-gabled structure, the center of a twenty-five building compound, is important as a vernacular interpretation of Shingle and Colonial Revival style design as seen in a typical county summer resort which has developed over a period of some fifty years. The two-and-a-half story main house was begun as the private home of Dr. George Elliot, who, in constructing this well-located "cottage," employed Norway builder Charles H. Adams (see N-28) to install the building's most remarkable feature — paneled walls and ceilings in a rich variety of native woods that decorate several of the major rooms. Elliot and his wife played a significant role in the improvement of town facilities during the first decades of this century; in 1909 they gave a library building, and in 1920 combined the latter with a large addition to form the Community Hall which stands today at East Otisfield Village. Under the ownership of the Bean family, "The Cape" has been expanded to include a variety of guest houses and accessory buildings, while retaining a uniquely informal and picturesque character.

O-7. EAST OTISFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH ("Free Meeting House")

1828-29, ca. 1870. Rayville Road

Built originally by carpenters Timothy and Otis Fernald for use by the local Methodists and Baptists, the "Free Meeting House," or "Union Church," was remodeled around 1870, giving it its present chaste appearance. According to one source, "the walls began to spread . . . but . . . whether it was entirely taken down and built up from the ground is not recorded." In 1869, the Baptists reorganized as a Freewill Baptist Society and, taking full possession of the church, carried out

the necessary repairs; the ca. 1870 reconstruction left a well-scaled vernacular structure displaying a pair of transomed doorways, large windows of six-over-six sash, and a square louvered belfry with pyramidal roof set atop the facade gable end.

Across the road, the Elmwood Cemetery contains the graves of many locally prominent individuals, as well as an intriguing Civil War monument placed at the center of a long, tree-shaded lane. The most unusual epitaph, that of the eccentric local philosopher Joseph White Holden, reads "Prof. Holden, the old astronomer, discovered that the Earth is flat and stationary and that the sun and moon do move."

O-8. DAVID RAY HOUSE

1795 and later. Rayville Road

The large, gable-roofed ell of this vernacular connected farmstead is, in fact, one of Oxford County's few remaining examples of a "plank frame" house, a construction method that employs thick vertical planking, rather than the usual studding between sill and plate.

Second only in local influence to first settler George Peirce (whose later brick-ended, Federal style house of 1797, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, stands on Route 302 north of Naples Village), David Ray came to Otisfield from Wrentham, Massachusetts, in 1780 having served in a company of Minute Men during the early years of the American Revolution. A skillful builder, as well as the settlement's first physician, Ray entered into a contract with the proprietors to erect a grist mill at the outlet of nearby Saturday Pond; this mill was in operation by June 1781. Just north of the present house, Ray constructed a log house and moved his family here on May 6, 1783 from an earlier location west of Crooked River in present-day Harrison. Ray also contracted with the proprietors to construct a saw mill (ca. 1786-87) for which he received a deed to the "Mill Lot" and two lots on the pond.

Never one to remain idle, David Ray added a frame lean-to section in 1795 to his log house for use as the first school in Otisfield. That same year he built a two-and-a-half story frame house "which was boarded with two-inch oak plank pinned on with wooden pins and had a chimney 15 feet square, in the lower story." Introduced into New England in the mid-seventeenth century, the plank house framing system was an economical alternative to more traditional framed structures, with their vast array of studs and joints. Indeed, the form itself was readily accepted into Oxford County's older settlements (as attest numerous town histories), due both to plentiful timber supplies and to the ubiquitous nature of the saw mill, often one of the first framed structures erected in the community.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the west gable end of this formerly center-chimneyed house was expanded to provide for a new, west-facing, five-bay main block which lies at a right angle to the older, eighteenth century portion.

Before his death in 1822, David Ray (for whom this section of Otisfield is named) was involved in the construction of other local buildings. Perhaps his most noteworthy commission was the local meetinghouse, the frame of which he erected on Bell Hill's highest point in 1795 (see O-12).

North of the Ray House is the William C. Smith House (1845), a brick Cape with brick and wood ell, in addition to a large, detached wood frame barn.

O-9. NATHAN WIGHT HOUSE

ca. 1800. Route 121 west of East Otisfield

The Nathan Wight House, a broad-roofed, low-posted Cape with center chimney, is one of the finest surviving examples of its type in southern Oxford County. Similar houses were built throughout the region by farmers, artisans, and tradesmen immediately following the initial settlement period, when various types of temporary structures provided shelter until a saw mill and subsequent framed houses could be erected (early Otisfield records indicate that log houses were the prevailing house type used by arriving settlers from 1775 until the first years of the nineteenth century).

Nathan Wight was one of the town's first blacksmiths and had a small shop (no longer extant) where the hardware for many neighboring houses was made. Partially restored by a later owner, Wight's compact house has nine-over-nine paned windows and four fireplaces off its massive center chimney. To the right of the house is an extensive ell and shed section; behind the house is a large detached barn built before 1840. The Wight Cemetery, east of the house, is one of the town's oldest and contains the remains of many family members.

O-10. TOWN HOUSE

1905. Bell Hill Road

This vernacular gable-roofed town meeting place is a late but representative example of the functional and unadorned halls built throughout rural Oxford County following the nineteenth century abandonment of combined church/town meetinghouses. In Otisfield, a barn-like eighteenth century "second-period" meetinghouse (see O-12) stood atop Bell Hill until 1845; in that year the structure was cut down and its upper story moved to a site near this building. Desiring more modern facilities, the selectmen authorized the construction of the present turn-of-the-century clapboarded structure in March of 1905; it was completed by late November.

Except for a simple entrance portico with bracketed corner posts, the exterior of the Town House is quite austere. The interior consists of a single large space sheathed in vertical and horizontal matched boards, a wall covering used in several county churches and meeting halls of the period. Reflecting the forthright



characteristics of those who built it, the Town House is a visible reminder of the long-standing importance of locally-based government.



O-11. LEVI PATCH HOUSE

ca. 1810. Bell Hill Road

Though built during the Federal period, the Levi Patch House is convincingly Colonial in character, with its center chimney, transomed and pilastered entrance doorway, and nearly square multi-paned second story windows. The house's site on the southern slope of Bell Hill was first cleared by Levi's father, Benjamin Patch of Concord, Massachusetts, in 1776. Besides becoming a successful farmer and

potato harvester, Levi Patch, around 1825, was engaged in the cutting of cedar "knees" which he sold to ship builders along the coast. In later years Patch also served as Otisfield's first postmaster. A large gable-roofed stable, dating from about the time of the house's construction, stands on the uphill side of it. The structure's "eyebrow" windows and row of arched doorways along the south wall are of local design interest.

Further up the hill, on the same side of the road, is a wood-framed Cape built in 1797-98 by "Major" Jonathan Moors of Shirley, Massachusetts, as Otisfield's first tavern (1798-1828). Moors arrived in Otisfield in 1779 and immediately constructed a log house which served his family until the present framed structure was built. One of the board of plantation assessors before incorporation, as well as a leader in the local militia, Moors formed a partnership with early Otisfield builder David Ray in the construction in 1800 of a saw mill on Crooked River, near where the village of Bolsters Mills later developed (see O-22).



O-12. "BELL HILL MEETINGHOUSE" (Congregational Church)

1837-39. Bell Hill Road, north of Route 121

BELL HILL SCHOOLHOUSE

1839.

The "Bell Hill Meetinghouse," completed in 1839 from designs by master builder Nathan Nutting, Jr., is basically Federal in character, though the position of the square tower set athwart the gable, in combination with the distinctive triangular pediments on the projecting pavilion and the main body of the structure itself, hint of later Greek Revival church forms, just then becoming popular in Maine.

As was the case in many Oxford County towns settled in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the present church was preceded by a simple, two-and-a-half

story, rectangular meetinghouse which, from 1795 to 1845, stood just north of this site. The earlier building, resembling in its basic form the county's only surviving example of the type, the Porter Meetinghouse (see P-38), featured box pews, a high pulpit centered on the long wall, and a projecting stair pavilion. Used first by the Congregationalists, but after 1812 by all religious sects in Otisfield, the building also served as a town meeting place. Due to its dilapidated condition and a revival within the Congregational Church in the mid-1830s, the structure was abandoned, its top story moved down the hill in 1845 to be used for town business until replaced by the present Town House (see O-10) in 1905.

As in many Maine churches built at this time, the present "meetinghouse" features a gable-roofed main block that is three bays long; the clapboarded walls are broken by tall, multi-paned windows capped with semi-circular louvered fans. The facade wall, with its paired doorways and windows, all capped with wooden fans, strongly resembles the original Waterford "Flat" Congregational Church (see W-5) of 1837, except that the Waterford building (and its near-copy erected after the original burned) have the tower placed directly above the pavilion. The open belfry with its paired paneled pilasters and multi-sided dome atop an octagonal base is similar to that on the Methodist Church (1845) at South Waterford. Soon after 1887, when the present structure was abandoned for the more conveniently located Union Chapel at Spurrs Corner (see O-17), the Bell Hill Association was formed to preserve this remarkable landmark in its fine hilltop setting.



Bell Hill Schoolhouse

A short distance south of the Meetinghouse stands the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Otisfield, a modest brick story-and-a-half structure erected in 1839. The town's first school consisted of a frame addition to early settler David Ray's 1783 log house northeast of Bell Hill in the Rayville section of town (see O-8); the first town-supported schoolhouses were raised in five "district"

locations in 1798-99. The District Number One School on Bell Hill ("Meetinghouse Hill") is notable for its simple architectural restraint, to say nothing of its longevity. The school closed in 1940 but is opened for viewing during the annual Meetinghouse service.

Across the road, the Bell Hill Cemetery, established in 1781, is the oldest in the town. The graves of numerous Revolutionary veterans and early settlers lie within its bounds.

O-13. JAMES SAMPSON HOUSE

1839. Bell Hill Road

SAMUEL KNIGHT HOUSE

1835.

A short distance north of the Bell Hill Meetinghouse stand this pair of handsome and well-preserved brick Capes, the nineteenth century homes of two men who figured prominently in the early development of Otisfield.

The Sampson House, the easternmost of the two, was built in 1839 as the retirement home of James Sampson, a Duxbury, Massachusetts, native who was the first to settle (ca. 1800) in present-day Harrison Village, located several miles west of this site. After raising his first house near the north end of Long Lake, Sampson erected saw and grist mills at the outlet of "Anonymous Pond" (Crystal Lake) and, to further encourage growth, established one of the town's first blacksmith shops. Sampson, as the "Pioneer of Harrison Village," did a great deal to stimulate immigration into that part of Otisfield incorporated as the town of Harrison in 1805. His later brick residence reflects a prosperity achieved during an ambitious career of public service and business acumen.

Across the road, the Knight House (1835) was built on the site of an earlier (1815) wood-framed dwelling by Samuel Knight, a War of 1812 veteran and one of the first masons in the town. Like the Sampson House, the Knight residence has rather plain late Federal detailing (including a centrally located doorway with semi-elliptical wood fan) seen on many structures built during this period. It seems probable that Knight was also involved in the construction of the Sampson House, which in overall plan is much like his own.

O-14. SAWYER-STONE FARMSTEAD

ca. 1810. Route 121 south of Bell Hill Corner

Ebenezer Sawyer arrived in Otisfield from Westbrook, Maine, in 1805; four years later he purchased this site for his "homestead farm." The foursquare, two-storied, center-chimneyed house with hip roof which he immediately set about constructing is, in its scale and lack of ornamentation, similar in form to much earlier Maine residences. With its spacious two-room-deep plan, allowing



for three fireplaces per floor, this particular house type was extremely popular in Oxford County between 1790 and 1820, and numerous examples still survive. The low pitch of the house's roof and its narrow windows are elements indicative of the emerging Federal style as interpreted by the non-professional country builder. Long the home of Ebenezer Sawyer's son Josiah, a store operator at Spurr's Corner, the house was sold to the Stone family in 1847 and functioned for many years as an inn and post office.

O-15. NUTTING HOMESTEAD

ca. 1796, 1825 and later. Route 121 (NR)

Of major architectural, as well as historic, importance, the Nutting Homestead provides excellent insight into the evolution of a rural Maine farm complex; the disposition of the several structures, which include a large detached barn (1825), carriage house, and corn crib, is also significant as typical of rural building arrangements in Maine before "connected" forms became popular.

In 1795 Nathan Nutting of Groton, Massachusetts, purchased one hundred and thirty acres at this site. Within a short time he erected a story-and-a-half Cape with clapboarded walls and massive center chimney (the latter was removed in 1876, at which time the Cape's eaves were probably extended to their present form). Nutting's son, Nathan, Jr., was born here in 1804 and, according to family tradition, was later sent to Boston to study architecture and the building trade. He returned to Otisfield in 1825 and built the impressive Federal style northern half of the house for his brother, Lyman. Though displaying a handsome entrance doorway with mullioned sidelights, broad louvered fan, and framing pilasters supporting a complete Grecian Doric entablature, the two-and-a-half story section has the general appearance of earlier, eighteenth century dwellings, due



in part to its large central chimney. Notwithstanding, the interior boasts finely crafted Federal style woodwork and a well-scaled semi-circular staircase.

In 1839, Nathan Nutting, Jr., by then a master builder, designed and constructed the nearby Bell Hill Meetinghouse (see O-12). Nutting also built the first steam saw mill in Otisfield, erected churches in Casco and Westbrook, and made carpenters planes and other tools.

The preservation of the "Homestead" by the fifth generation of the Nutting family is a statement for the permanency of agriculture as it progressed in western Maine from the late eighteenth century into the first decades of the twentieth century. In addition, this unique farmstead represents the range of building types most common in Oxford County before the widespread adoption of Greek Revival design characteristics.

O-16. JOSEPH HANCOCK HOUSE

ca. 1848. Route 121 east of Spurrs Corner

The rather whimsical Hancock House is a study in eclecticism carried out on a modestly-scaled building whose basic form is the story-and-a-half side-hall-plan found on almost every village street in the county. The house is especially significant in being one of the few nineteenth century structures remaining in the county which employs board and batten exterior sheathing, a treatment that makes this small residence appear larger than it actually is. Other notable features in this early attempt at creating a Victorian "cottage" are paneled corner pilasters and paired cornice brackets spaced along a wide entablature. In addition, the main entrance doorway on the gable facade features a shouldered architrave trim which is mirrored in the nearby window head treatment. At the rear and to one side of the house are the remnants of a connecting shed and barn; the latter was



the first store (ca. 1848) in what soon became known as the "Hancockville" section of Otisfield.



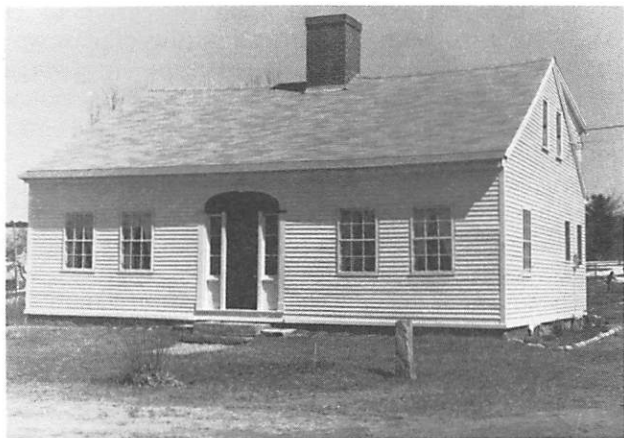
Green-Nutting House

Across the road is the Green-Nutting House (ca. 1840) whose three-over-five-bayed facade is a vernacular interpretation of popular Greek Revival themes. The house features wide corner pilasters, a pair of end-wall chimneys on the gable facade, and an inset, sidelighted entrance doorway. While not a common house form in Oxford County, a handful of examples do exist; the George W. Grover House (see B-22) at Bethel, among others, is of similar plan.

O-17. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ("Union Chapel")

1870. Route 121 at Spurrs Corner

Soon after 1845, the population in and around Bell Hill began to decrease while that in the villages of Bolsters Mills and Spurrs Corner increased. By the time of the Civil War, the decision had been made to construct a second church for the Congregational Society, and the prospering settlement at Spurrs Corner was chosen for the site. The austere appearance of this gable-roofed village church remains essentially as built along a vernacular Victorian plan similar to that used in the reconstructed East Otisfield Baptist Church (see O-7). The building features paired facade entries with double doors, transom lights, and simple entablatures. The tall, multi-paned windows emphasize the vertical thrust of the design. Atop the gable end is a concave-roofed open belfry resting on a square base with prominent cornice. The round-arch belfry openings mirror those found on several county church structures of the period, including the examples at North Waterford and Andover Village. The "Union Chapel" was dedicated on January 18, 1871. Since 1887, when the Bell Hill Meetinghouse (see O-12) was abandoned, meetings of the local Congregationalists have been held in this structure.

**O-18. HOLDEN-KNIGHT HOUSE**

ca. 1815-25. Route 121 at Spurrs Corner

Surrounded by mostly vernacular and vernacular Victorian two-storied houses, this well-maintained center chimney Cape is one of the oldest structures at Spurrs Corner, the largest village in Otisfield during the second half of the nineteenth century. The structure's high-posted frame and sidelighted fan doorway indicate late Federal period characteristics; the house replaced an earlier residence built

soon after the Holden family purchased this well-situated village lot in 1798. During much of the nineteenth century, the house was the home of Johnson W. Knight, a successful cabinetmaker and store owner who moved here from the neighboring town of Casco in 1846. Though its original outbuildings are no longer extant, the house accurately conveys the type of home erected at this crossroads site before its development as a town center.

Across the street, the former Barrows Store (ca. 1915) is one of the last reminders of Spurr's Corner's nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial prosperity. The wooden two-and-a-half story structure is a product of an earlier era, one which provided for numerous stores, a clothing factory, and a shoe shop, all at nearby locations.

O-19. SPURR-KNIGHT HOUSE

ca. 1790, ca. 1820. Route 121 south of Spurr's Corner

This wood frame double Cape represents an interesting, but not uncommon, house form found throughout western Maine; following a typical pattern which saw additions built which paralleled nearby roads, the ell of this house is the older of the two sections, though both are constructed along similar central chimney plans. The house's first owner, Joseph Spurr, Jr., came to Otisfield from Dorchester, Massachusetts, with his father's family (the town's fourth) in September of 1779; ruins of a stone foundation mark the site of the family's earliest home across the road. The present house retains its original clapboard sheathing and multi-paned windows; the older section has a transomed entrance doorway and simple, but well-crafted, interior fireplace moldings.

Spurr's Corner (see O-18), which became Otisfield's largest village during the second half of the nineteenth century, lies a short distance north. It received its name from early settler and Revolutionary veteran Enoch Spurr, another of Joseph's brothers.

A short distance south on Route 121 is the Benjamin Moors House, a high-posted Cape with extensive ell and connecting sheds intact. Built around 1830, the house has been well-restored in recent years and boasts a finely weathered clapboard exterior.

O-20. LEVI MAINS HOUSE

1868-70. Off Oak Hill Road

In the context of western Maine's domestic architecture, the Levi Mains House is a fine example of a large Greek Revival side-hall-plan house built in brick and stone. Most unusual here, however, is the house's isolated hillside site, far away from the few county locations, such as Rumford Falls, where such substantial residences were commonly built. Levi Mains purchased an acre of land at this site



in 1868 and had the bricks for his new home hauled by oxcart from the nearby town of Raymond.

Notable features of this two-and-a-half story gable-roofed structure are the well-worked granite basement, the heavy granite lintels which cap the door and window openings, and the corbelling beneath the eaves entablature and along the cornice returns. Reflecting ancient temple-forms, the brick walls are articulated by broad pilaster strips which, unlike their wooden counterparts, have no bases or capitals. The Mains House is unique for its architectural sophistication set amid an extremely rural setting.

O-21. HOLDEN FARMSTEAD

ca. 1812, 1825. Oak Hill Road

This well preserved farmstead is particularly notable for its authentic early nineteenth century exterior qualities and for its interior wall stenciling attributed to Moses Eaton, an itinerant New Hampshire stenciler who probably executed them in the late 1820s or early 1830s. The builder of the connected structure, Roland Holden, came to Otisfield from Stoneham, Massachusetts, with his father's family in 1797; the southernmost and oldest section of the structure, a center chimneyed Cape, was undoubtedly completed a short time before Holden moved here with his new bride in April of 1812. The somewhat larger wing to the north was added in 1825 in response to the growing family's needs, and to Holden's lucrative position as surveyor of the town's rapidly developing road system. The colorful wall stencils appear in four of the rooms; in several instances the mopboards have also been marbled.

Situated on an upland site near the town's western border with Harrison, the Holden farmstead remained in the builder's family until 1941. The founder of this

branch of one of Otisfield's most prolific families, as well as many of his descendants, lies buried in the nearby Oak Hill Cemetery.

O-22. BOLSTERS MILLS

Between routes 117 and 121

The village of Bolsters Mills actually lies in both Otisfield and the adjoining town of Harrison and stands on both sides of a quick-flowing stretch of the Crooked River (once planned as a northerly extension of the famed Cumberland and Oxford Canal). In general, its architecture reflects the influence of rural industrialism as it existed here in the last three quarters of the nineteenth century. Isaac Bolster of Paris, Maine, first developed the water power at this site by erecting a dam and saw mill on the east (Otisfield) side of the river in 1819; a year later he constructed a grist mill on the Harrison side. Bolster is also credited with establishing the first store in the village, probably soon after 1820.

Though the village proper retains its nineteenth century schoolhouse, church, grange hall, and several commercial structures, all trace of the early mills has vanished; those structures remaining on the Otisfield side, except for a store at the bridge's eastern end, represent the somewhat modest range of domestic architecture chosen by middle-class inland residents between the years 1820 and 1930.



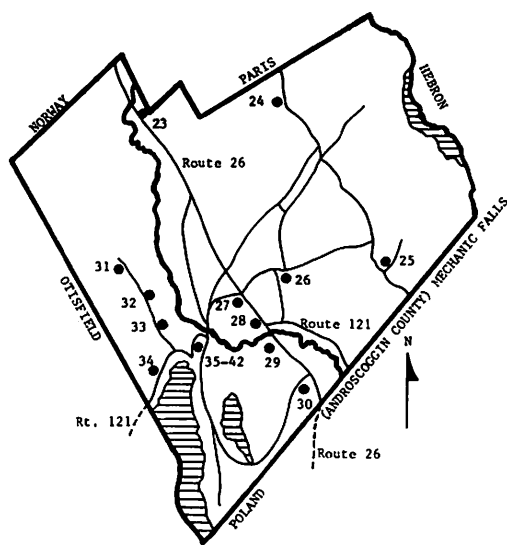
Cook-Weston House

Standing next to the store, on a street that formerly ran east to join with the northern end of the Bell Hill Road, is the Cook-Weston House (ca. 1825-30), certainly the most imposing late Federal style residence within the village. Attributed to the skills of master builder Nathan Nutting, Jr., the center chimney,

two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed house is remarkably similar to that built by Nutting for his brother Lyman nearer the center of town (see O-15). Particularly notable features are the modillioned cornice and the sophisticated Federal doorway with broad, semi-elliptical wood fan, fluted moldings, framing pilasters, and modillioned entablature cornice. The several classical motifs used in the overall design are somewhat marred by the clapboard-like siding and metal roofing that now incase the building. Careful scrutiny of the facade wall reveals that the original design did not provide for exterior window shutters, there being an obvious lack of space for them between the windows of each corner room (following the example of Colonial or Georgian houses, many early or transitional Federal style houses, at least in Oxford County, were originally built without exterior shutters). Such indicators of earlier appearance are not always so readily apparent — Dr. Moses Mason, whose 1813 house (see B-13) was the first on the Bethel Hill Common to be painted white, was “ridiculed for his extravagance” when he added green blinds to its exterior a decade or more later. Despite this fact, the fenestration of the Mason House as restored between 1972 and 1973 retains this later modification, one that saw widespread adoption after 1876 when village buildings all over New England were “colonialized” with white paint and dark shutters.

At the eastern end of the street, beyond an early high-posted Cape and several later vernacular Victorian houses, is the five-bayed two-and-a-half story Haskell House, built sometime around 1835. Located on a rise overlooking much of the hamlet, this house is a well-scaled and handsome representative of a common house form found in both village and rural settings throughout Oxford County. Centered on its first floor, between windows of six-over-six sash, is a well-crafted entrance doorway boasting a local builder's attempt at a Doric entablature. The house also has a pair of interior chimneys and a single-story rear ell.

OXFORD



INTRODUCTION

The early political history of the town of Oxford, on the county's southern border adjoining Androscoggin and Cumberland counties, is tied closely to that of the town of Hebron, of which it was a part until 1829. Granted to Alexander Shepard, Jr. of Newton, Massachusetts, in 1777, Oxford (then called "Shepardsfield Plantation") was first settled in 1782 by Job Cushman, who felled the first trees that year. Marquis Fayette King, a former president of the first Maine Genealogical Society and the author of *Annals of Oxford, Maine* (1903), states that the earliest settlers, including Isaac Bolster (later of Paris), John Caldwell, Peter Thayer, and James Holmes, came by a spotted line "through the wilderness from New Gloucester." Thanks in part to the financial encouragement of Cambridge land speculator Andrew Craigie, along with his influential local agent, William Clark Whitney, the potential for water-powered manufacturing, as well as agricultural production, was quickly developed in the western half of Hebron; there being major physical and political differences between the two sectors, the residents agreed in November 1828 to divide the town. Incorporated on February 27, 1829, the town of Oxford was most likely named for Oxford, Massachusetts, as was the county itself.

The hills of East Oxford being nearer the major travel route from Portland to the more northerly of the county's townships, prosperous farmsteads were esta-

blished there first. Further west, at the outlet of Thompson Lake, Andrew Craigie built saw and grist mills around 1800, and within a few years, on the establishment of a post office, the name "Craigie's Mills" was adopted. Later mills developed at the site of present-day Oxford Village, culminating in the construction of what was then the largest manufacturing structure in Oxford County, the massive, brick, wool-producing Robinson Manufacturing Company (still the town's largest employer). Soon after 1820, the waters of the Little Androscoggin River were harnessed at present-day Welchville Village, and a series of mills there eventually provided reason for continued economic growth.

As in surrounding towns, agriculture played an enormous part in Oxford's history, but decreasingly so after the arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad (now Canadian National Railway) in July of 1849. In the decades between the Civil War and World War II, wool manufacturing continued in the forefront, with lumbering, corn canning, dairying, and raising field crops much in evidence. One of the county's fastest growing towns, Oxford today is known for its several sprawling plants, producing that modern answer to economical mass housing — the mobile home.

Throughout its two hundred year history, the town has been the place of residence of numerous men and women prominent in a wide variety of fields. Besides those mentioned in the following pages, men like Craigie, Whitney, Jairus S. Keith, and Joseph Robinson, there were others worthy of brief note here. Raised in Oxford (though born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire), John Jasiel Perry eventually filled the roles of deputy sheriff of Oxford County, Maine state representative, practicing lawyer in Oxford, Maine state senator, and member of Congress. In addition, Perry was the influential editor of the *Oxford Democrat* newspaper from 1860 to 1875. Marquis Fayette King, the author of Oxford's only published history (mentioned above), was also mayor of Portland and a member of the executive council of Maine governors Burleigh and Cleaves. Joseph Robinson Parrott, born in Oxford and a graduate of Yale, went on as one of the developers of the Key West Railroad, eventually becoming the company's president.

Though located within a major growth corridor (one which also includes portions of the nearby towns of Norway and Paris), the town of Oxford holds claim to significant structures that describe its rich history in a unique and valuable way. While the most important architectural examples are in the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles (or combinations thereof), simple vernacular commercial buildings and rural farmsteads rank well with other county examples. The Oxford Historical Society, formed in 1981, is in the process of compiling materials on the town's past and will hopefully aim at publishing a comprehensive history in the not-too-distant future.

A century ago, in 1880, Oxford's population stood at 1,655 individuals. The settlement pattern of that era saw the largest clusters of buildings at Oxford Village and Welchville. With a population reaching a little over 3,000 in 1980, the town is presently witnessing the gradual disappearance of its open space, an event that promises to alter Oxford's earlier identity. Indeed, the problem of uncon-

trolled growth, now being addressed by municipal officials, is one that many county towns have gradually become aware of. It is the precarious balance between economic growth and a community's social integrity (not to mention its architectural inheritance) that is of immediate concern in this southern Oxford County town.



O-23. STANTON FARMSTEAD ("Old Oxford Village")

ca. 1840 and later. Route 26

Constructed partly of brick made from clay located on the nearby banks of the Little Androscoggin River, this connected farmstead was successfully operated as a cattle and multiple-crop farm by three generations of the Stanton family. The earliest portion of the structure, the late Federal style brick Cape facing the highway, was built by Woodbury L. Stanton, a surveyor of highways, field driver, and fence viewer in the town of Oxford in the 1840s. Now converted to commercial purposes, the extended building remains essentially unaltered on the exterior. The brick window lintels and fine fan doorway of the house's facade are particularly notable features.

South of the Stanton Farmstead, on the eastern end of Skeetfield Road, the Lane-Walker House is an interesting example of a Greek Revival Cape having heavy granite window lintels and a narrow band of transom and sidelights surrounding the center entrance door. It dates to around 1845-50.



O-24. WILLIAM CLARK WHITNEY ESTATE

ca. 1810 and later. East Oxford Road

Built by William Clark Whitney, the local agent for Cambridge, Massachusetts, land speculator and Oxford town benefactor Andrew Craigie, this brick-ended Federal style residence stands as the focal point of an expansive, well-groomed estate. One of the finest houses of its kind in Oxford County, the commodious structure ranks well with the Dr. Timothy Carter House at Bethel (1816; see B-7) and the nearby Robinson-Parsons House at Paris (1803; see P-8), the other two brick-ended Federal style houses remaining in the county.

William Clark Whitney was the son of Joshua Whitney of Worcester, Massachusetts, one of the proprietors of Township Number Four, now Paris. After a short residence in Paris, the younger Whitney was hired in April of 1798 to administer the vast acreage and water-power rights held by Andrew Craigie in the western half of what was then the town of Hebron. Continuing to act as agent until Craigie's heirs closed out the estate, Whitney moved in 1832 to Norway Village's Main Street (see N-28) where he resided until his death in 1859. For many years Oxford's wealthiest citizen, Whitney was also a representative in the Massachusetts "General Court" (state legislature), a member of Governor William King's executive council, a sheriff of Oxford County, and an influential trustee of Hebron Academy.

The exterior of the Whitney House is distinguished by twelve-over-twelve paned sash, tall end chimneys, a low hip roof, and a fine Federal doorway with sidelights, fluted pilasters, and broad semi-elliptical wooden fan. The interior, remodeled in a major renovation carried out between 1960 and 1966, retains its center-hall-plan with six (originally eight) fireplaces decorated in well-executed carved moldings. Of particular note also is the fine open center staircase with delicate balusters and finely-crafted handrail. The kitchen ell and attached stable/carriage house, while in keeping with the house's exterior character, have

been completely remodeled inside. Behind and to one side of the house is a massive gable-roofed barn with a distinctive star-shaped window high in the gable end. It was built about 1905 by John P. Penley, a later owner of the estate.

A short distance north, behind a much-remodeled Cape, is one of the county's few surviving English barns.

O-25. SOULE TAVERN

ca. 1810 and later. Junction of Robinson Hill and Old Town Farm roads

ROBINSON HOUSE

1899.

This foursquare wood frame structure with low hipped roof was Oxford's first hotel. Raised by Revolutionary veteran James Soule, it was preceded by a smaller house (kept for the same purpose) built soon after 1794 when Soule purchased the property. Located on the "great thoroughfare from all up country to Portland," the hostelry was operated at this site until 1830. Due to major alterations, the building now stands minus its massive center chimney and original twelve-over-eight paned sash. Notwithstanding, the structure is an important architectural artifact from the town's formative years.

South of the Soule Tavern, the George Oliver Robinson House ("Bellemont Farm"), built in 1899, stands on a high elevation overlooking several adjoining towns. Here, at "Robinson Hill," his father, George Robinson, settled around 1815-20 and erected a Federal style house which was destroyed by fire and replaced the same year by the present Colonial Revival two-and-a-half story residence.

A Bowdoin graduate of 1849, George Oliver Robinson went on to Portland to study law under the guidance of William Pitt Fessenden. In later years, while practicing law in Bloomington, Illinois, Robinson became acquainted with, and worked closely beside, another lawyer — Abraham Lincoln. The Robinson House, neglected for many years, is now undergoing a complete rehabilitation.

A short distance north of the Soule Tavern, on a connecting road, is the "Shepardsfield Burying Ground," Oxford's oldest cemetery (established 1780). Among the town's early settlers buried here are twenty-two veterans of the War of Independence.

O-26. FERNALD, KEENE, AND TRUE COMPANY CANNING FACTORY

ca. 1890-1900. Station Road off Route 26

An important late nineteenth century wooden industrial complex located adjacent to the tracks of the Portland-to-Montreal railroad, this corn-canning establishment is a rare survivor from a significant era in Oxford County's



agricultural past. The sweet corn canning industry originated in Maine and, by the Civil War, was of great economic importance (in 1860 the nearby towns of Harrison and Paris were first and second in order of largest number of bushels grown in the state, respectively). The Oxford Cannery, once centered around the two remaining barn-like structures, ceased operations about 1943. Similar buildings remain standing at South Paris and Bryant Pond villages.

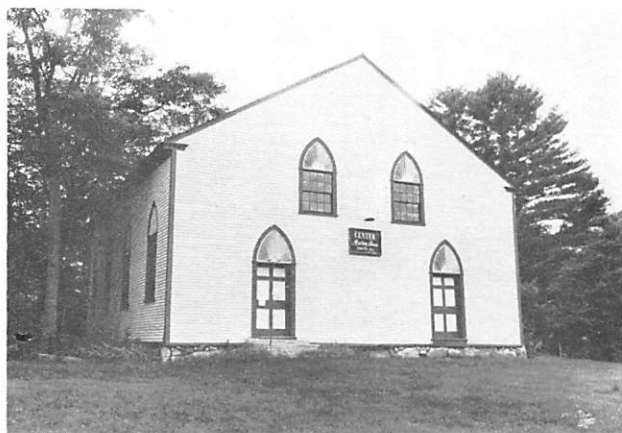
Oxford's railroad station, now razed, stood a short distance away.

O-27. "CENTER MEETING HOUSE"

1830. Junction of routes 26 and 121

One of Oxford County's oldest public buildings still serving its original function, the Oxford Center, or "Craigie," Meeting House is a fine example of a wood frame "town house" constructed in a combination of the Federal and Gothic Revival styles. The barn-like structure was erected one year after the town's incorporation (from the western half of Hebron) by the heirs of early town proprietor and influential Cambridge, Massachusetts, land speculator, Andrew Craigie; the adjacent burying ground and Common were laid out at the same time. As a distinctive building form (though not a conventional one in Maine until after the Federal period), the town house or town hall developed as a result of the separation of church and state, which in Maine was officially sanctioned at the time of statehood in 1820.

On the first story of the facade are paired entries displaying paneled doors and pointed-arch wooden louvers. A pair of multi-paned windows at the gallery or second story level above and between the doors are topped with similar louvers. The Gothic quality of the clapboarded gabled facade is continued in the four large windows on each of the side walls. The structure has been especially well-



maintained over the years by the citizens of Oxford and stands today in essentially unaltered condition.

The Waterford Town House (1843; see W-5) and the Fryeburg Town Hall (1847; see F-13) are two other important county examples of this building type. Both are constructed in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style.

O-28. METHODIST CHURCH ("Welchville Community Church")

1866. Route 26 at Welchville Village

Boasting an eclectic design of local importance, this clapboard-covered, two-and-a-half story structure was the second church edifice built for Methodist services in Oxford. In 1794, a small group of local citizens met at the home of John Caldwell to hear a Methodist sermon; another group organized on nearby Pidgeon Hill in 1805. From the 1830s to the time of the Oxford Village church's construction (see O-41), services were held in the nearby Center Meeting House (see O-27).

Abandoned by the Methodists several years ago, and now sensitively converted to commercial use, this village landmark has paneled corner pilasters, a bracketed roof cornice and door hood, and an open belfry with pyramidal roof and weathervane. Among the most interesting features in evidence here are the multi-paned windows capped in hooded drip molds, a common Gothic Revival decorative device. In some ways, the four-part central windows seems to mimic earlier Palladian types, once seen on several local houses, all now destroyed. The crenellations above the double-doored entry also stem from Gothic models.

A short distance north of the church is the former Hiram Gilbert House, a popular hotel and post office site during the mid-nineteenth century.



O-29. WILLIAM S. DODGE HOUSE

1862-63. Route 26 at Welchville Village

As in the nearby Dr. Artemas L. Hersey House (see O-32), the William S. Dodge House combines a traditional two-and-a-half story gable-roofed form with Italianate architectural details; the resulting design was quoted upon completion as being "... one of the finest private residences in the county." Little changed on the exterior, the house still conveys the important status of its original owner, a quartermaster of the Tenth Maine Regiment during the Civil War and a former state justice.

Situated on the south bank of the Little Androscoggin River, the Dodge House presents its gable end to the highway; tall, paired, multi-paned windows and an open porch supported by chamfered square posts embellish the first story, while a pair of quarter-round windows (a feature seen more often on Colonial Revival houses in the county) are framed together at the attic level. The most notable stylistic details are the pairs of eaves brackets, paneled corner pilasters, and elaborate entrance door hood. The pair of connecting barns and the various outbuildings on the property are reserved in their character, providing an interesting contrast with the main residence.

Across Route 26, near the site of the present dam, stood the early nineteenth century (ca. 1820) log dam and saw mill constructed by Benajah Pratt, Jr., George Robinson, and Nathan, Ezra, and Samuel Wright. In 1836, John Welch, a wealthy Boston merchant, began investing money and soon became the town's largest landholder. Immediately after the construction of his "commodious dwelling" (now destroyed) on the riverbank, the burgeoning little village took the name "Welchville." After Welch's death, George W. King of Portland gained possession of the saw mill and, soon after, John Harper, a Scot, erected a woolen mill for the manufacture of "repellents and flannels." This latter enterprise, a major factor in the district's later nineteenth century employment scheme, was destroyed by fire

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in September 1891. Since that time, the village has suffered a gradual, though quite obvious, decline.

O-30. SCHOOLHOUSE

mid-nineteenth century. Junction of Rabbit Valley Road and Route 26

This small, now-abandoned schoolhouse is a last reminder of the numerous "district" schools that once dotted Oxford's hilly landscape. Architecturally simple, but historically significant, the one-story, multi-windowed, weathered structure may be the same as that shown standing on the opposite side of the road on the county wall map of 1858.

The earliest provision for local education in Oxford, then Shepardsfield Plantation, was made shortly before the year 1792, when the sparsely settled community was divided up into six districts. The Caldwell School (built ca. 1788, now destroyed), the town's first such structure, was where Franklin Pierce, later the country's fourteenth president, taught for a time in the early 1820s. A small monument marks the site several miles north on the East Oxford Road.

O-31. HENRICKSON HOUSE ("Craigie Estate")

ca. 1857 and later. Allen Hill Road

This side-hall house displaying both Greek Revival and Italianate design characteristics stands on the site of the "Craigie Mansion," the focal point of a gentleman's farm established on this lofty hilltop in the late 1790s by early town benefactor Andrew Craigie of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Originally, the property also included several large barns and numerous outbuildings for maintaining what was likely the area's largest stock of domestic animals. Having discovered that sheep, in particular, were well suited to this rocky locale, Craigie went one step further in advocating the local production of wool. That Craigie and his agent William Clark Whitney (see O-24) can be credited with the development of the best lands in the immediate area for agricultural purposes, goes without saying. More importantly, their early nineteenth century efforts to promote settlement around present-day Oxford Village culminated in the division of the town of Hebron and the incorporation of its western half as the new town of Oxford.

The original Craigie house, along with most of its outbuildings, was destroyed by fire around 1842. Before his death in 1819, Andrew Craigie made numerous trips to Oxford to oversee his Maine lands. Though the prosperous village nestled below became officially known as "Oxford" soon after incorporation, the previous name of "Craigie's Mills" continued to honor one of the town's most distinguished patriarchs for many years.



O-32. DR. ARTEMAS L. HERSEY HOUSE

ca. 1839, 1861. Allen Hill Road

Imposing in its scale and siting, this large brick house is one of the county's finest Italianate residences; the house follows, in form, earlier gable-roofed dwellings having the entrance on one of the long walls and thus does not conform to the more high-style, villa-type Italianate houses found in many larger Maine communities.

Artemas L. Hersey, a Livermore native, came to Oxford in 1854 from his studies at the Oxford Normal Institute (now destroyed) at Paris and the Maine Medical School in Brunswick on the campus of Bowdoin College. He soon purchased the former Isaac Carlton House, a one-story brick structure built around 1839, and remodeled it into what a local newspaper called "his most tasteful residence." Hersey soon married prominent lawyer Jairus Keith's daughter, Heloise Helena, who saw to it that the doctor's house became a center for the religious and social life of the town. One of Maine's few surviving commissions by Bethel architect Thomas Holt, the residence remains one of his best documented, the original plans having been placed years ago in the collections of the Maine Historical Society (Portland).

The house is distinguished by a heavily bracketed and denticulated cornice, a balustraded door hood, and elaborately crafted tall brick chimneys. The round-arch opening of the attached barn's gable end is mirrored by the pair of attic windows in the house's street-facing gable end. The tall, granite-capped windows and the entrance doorway with its leaded glass transom and sidelights are also of note.

At one time chief civil engineer for the Maine Central Railroad, Thomas Holt provided designs for a number of other county structures, though most no longer exist. Two now-destroyed landmarks, the Universalist Church at Paris Hill (1859-1952) and the Androscoggin River Covered Bridge at Bethel (1869-1927) are

attributed to his skills as an architect. Extant Maine buildings designed by Holt include churches at Yarmouth, Skowhegan, and North Waterford (see W-2), and a vernacular Italianate house on Church Street at Bethel Hill (see B-12).



O-33. WALKER-FROST HOUSE

ca. 1866. Allen Hill Road

The Walker-Frost House attains its Gothic quality more from its steeply-pitched, multi-gabled roof and narrow proportions than for any profusion of decorative detail, though many windows are framed in hooded drip moldings. Built for George F. Walker, a Westbrook native and village trader in the 1870s, the house formerly had landscaped grounds and a large attached barn, the latter removed in 1979. The large bay windows and round-arch window openings reflect the local acceptance of popular Italianate decorative elements. The Walkers moved to Portland in 1888; their rather eclectic village residence has seen numerous occupants since that time.

On the opposite side of Allen Hill Road stands the Benjamin Lapham House, a large Bungalow style residence erected around 1920. Combining wood and stone as building materials, the house has a glass-enclosed first story porch and a broad shed dormer on the sweeping south-facing roof slope.

O-34. JAIRUS KEITH HOUSE ("Highfields")

1834. Route 121 west of Oxford Village

Built for an early Oxford lawyer who served in many important town offices as well as the state senate, this impressive residence offers a graceful, though



somewhat unusual treatment of Greek Revival decorative motifs, most especially in its pillared, two-storied, pedimented portico facing Thompson Lake. The house is a good example of a residence designed with two parlors placed across the front of the structure; the formal entry, as in other Maine houses of similar plan, is located behind the facade on a side wall, and in this case gives access to a stair hall containing original wallpaper in a Gothic Revival design.

Early in the twentieth century the house was used as a vacation home by a Keith descendant, Mary Isabel Corning. The next owner, Mrs. Kate Starbird, Oxford librarian, local historian, and collector, maintained the house as Miss Corning had left it, down to the placement of furniture. This tradition has been continued by Mrs. Starbird's daughter and husband, the current owners.

A two-story, gable-roofed barn displaying a row of gracefully arched first floor openings extends off one side at the back of the house. At the lawn's edge is a Victorian playhouse brought to the site from Mrs. Starbird's Oxford Village home, "Lowfields" (see O-42). "Highfields," in its impressive hillside setting, may be said to represent the apex of the Greek Revival style as interpreted for domestic use in nineteenth century Oxford County.

O-35. FREELAND HOLMES LIBRARY

1914. Main Street

Unusual in design and eccentric in character, the Freeland Holmes Library was erected by South Paris builders A. W. Walker and Sons from plans furnished by architect Harry D. Olmstead of Hartford, Connecticut. The original "Colonial Yellow" coloring of the interior walls and ceiling was carried out by Monmouth artist and architect Harry H. Cochrane. Noted more in Oxford County for his large-scale murals in several public buildings (see H-14, P-20, and R-18),



Cochrane is responsible for Maine's most remarkable late Queen Anne building, Cumston Hall (1899-1900) at Monmouth.

Named in memory of a Portland trader and Oxford native who left funds for its establishment, the Oxford town library has walls of cinder block, banks of diamond-paned windows, and a broadly overhung hipped roof. The half-timbered effect seen at the corners and on the projecting, gable-roofed entrance porch was meant to convey a Tudor-like architectural quality. The Library contains, among other things, the local history writings and collections of Mrs. Käte Starbird, a former librarian.

O-36. PERKINS/PEACO SCHOOL ("Oxford High School") 1926. Pleasant Street

Of the county's relatively few surviving large wooden school buildings raised after the state allowed several towns to consolidate into "unions" for the management of local education (1897), the former Oxford High School is an important and relatively unaltered example. Built in 1926, this two-story school on a raised basement of brick is typical of many schools built in Maine during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Concerned mostly with interior improvements, many builders applied little or no ornamentation to the exterior of large Maine schools of the period.

The Oxford school, while modest in form, does display certain Colonial Revival characteristics, most notably its paired pilasters at the corners and on the projecting pavilion, its tripart and palladian windows, and its window-encircled entrance doorway sheltered by a flat-roofed portico supported by thin wooden columns. In addition, the building retains its twelve-over-twelve paned sash and pairs of wooden urns set atop a low parapet above the cornice.



The Chisholm School (see R-25), Rumford Falls' first high school, is a similar, though much altered, county schoolhouse. The towns of Porter, Buckfield, and Canton also retain school structures reflective of the type.

O-37. PLEASANT STREET HOUSES

Between King and Main streets

A number of houses on Oxford Village's Pleasant Street retain much of their original character, and represent, in their modest but solid craftsmanship, some of the most popular house styles and forms utilized in Oxford County during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

About halfway between King Street and a now-closed section of Main street at the Robinson Manufacturing Company is the brick, story-and-a-half Kavanaugh House, built about 1860. The rather plain residence displays granite door and window lintels, and an attached wooden ell with barn. The probable builder of the house, Bartlett Kavanaugh, came to town under the employ of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad; he later worked in the nearby woolen factory.

Across the street is the Wolcott House, a well-preserved wooden Greek Revival Cape. South of this stands a two-and-a-half story vernacular structure used in the last quarter of the nineteenth century as a carriage repair shop. A faint line in the second story clapboards of the gabled street facade indicates where numerous horse-drawn vehicles were once hauled into the building. This interesting structure has been converted to residential use but manages to retain much of its former character.

Across the street is the brick Isaac Bearce House, once the home of a successful local carder and clothier who came to "Craigie's Mills" in 1816. The residence has an interesting first story porch with turned posts and spindles, which was probably added several years after the house's construction (ca. 1860). Next

door, the Andrews House is a two-and-a-half story structure built most likely in the 1870s. Its street facade boasts sections of flush-board framing large windows; the first floor may have been used for commercial purposes during the latter part of the nineteenth century. On the same side of the street, and just below, is the side-hall, two-and-a-half story I. A. Caldwell House, a fine representative of the county's many Greek Revival gable-to-the-street village homes.

Across the street is the substantial French-Wilder House, a connected village farmstead/residence that makes use of popular Greek Revival decorative motifs while following, in plan, the earlier five-bayed houses of the Colonial and Federal periods. Well-maintained during a series of ownerships, the rambling structure stands in contrast to the temple-like Greek Revival houses in the county, which were often built to conform to narrow village lots. The French-Wilder House most likely dates to around 1850.



Holbrook-Stiles House

On the opposite side of Pleasant Street, beyond a two-story vernacular structure once used as a store, is the eclectic Holbrook-Stiles House, a Federal style structure originally raised around 1829, but embellished with Victorian decorative elements around 1890. During much of the nineteenth century, the now-elaborated residence was the home of Seth Taft Holbrook, a member of the state legislature, one-time president of the Oxford County Agricultural Society, and an influential and successful Oxford stock breeder. In the mid-1880s, the property was purchased by the Robinson family of the nearby woolen manufactory. They proceeded to alter the street facade of the house, adding the pair of windowed, two-storied, tower-like bays with conical roofs; the double-doored entry within an open porch with thin, bracketed posts was carried out at the same time. Of other additions that took place, the most notable was perhaps the creation of the distinctive wooden fence with urn finials. The property has been in the Stiles family since 1923.



O-38. DEAN-ROBINSON HOUSE

ca. 1855. King Street

One of the county's most interesting extant two-storied, side-hall Greek Revival houses, this well-preserved brick residence stands on a rise above the outlet stream from Thompson Lake. The building is distinguished by tall first floor windows on the narrow gable end, by denticulated moldings along the eaves and within the closed gable pediment, and by a wrap-around porch supported by thin Doric columns. The house is a more sophisticated version of the ubiquitous wooden side-hall houses which became the prevailing building form along village streets during the second half of the nineteenth century. On the street side, the house has a solid entrance door framed with sidelights and transom. At the rear of the main block is an off-set two-story brick ell. The fenestration and overall character of the gable-roofed attached barn follows that of the house.

Across the street is the Cummings House, a vernacular interpretation of popular Queen Ann design built in the late 1880s or early 1890s. With its octagonal corner tower, asymmetrical window arrangement, and expansive side porch with turned posts and spindles, the house expresses some of the three-dimensional qualities of the style. The large attached barn is notable for its clipped gables and pyramidal-roofed cupola.

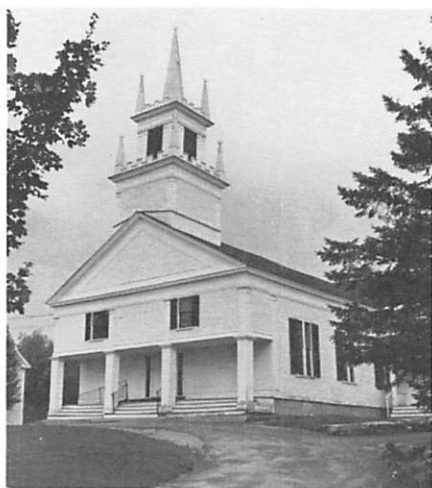
O-39. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1842-43, 1914. King Street

RAWSON HOUSE

ca. 1845.

The Oxford Congregational Church displays a striking though unorthodox design that is also seen in several notable Oxford County buildings, including the



old County Courthouse at Paris Hill (see P-2) and the Isaiah Warren House at Fryeburg Village (see F-29). The church's building committee, made up of a group of influential Craige's Mills' citizens, is known to have examined several area churches before beginning construction. The actual plans were drawn up by local housewrights Otis F. Mixer and Samuel H. King, the latter a successful village store owner for whom King Street was named when laid out in 1833. It seems likely that the facade colonnade of four square piers supporting an overhanging second story and pronounced triangular pediment may be based on that of the New Gloucester Congregational Church of 1838, which is surprisingly similar in plan. Above the piers, pilasters continue the vertical lines and support a heavy entablature. Set athwart the gable is a square tower base which supports a belfry stage embellished with Gothic crenelated parapets and corner spirelets. A tall wooden spire crowns the church's tower, one of the village landmarks. The Gothicized tower may be based, in part, on that of the First Congregational Church at Norway Center (see N-13). The leaded-glass windows were installed during a major refurbishment in 1914.

The first Congregationalist Society in what is now Oxford was organized in May of 1826. Meetings were for many years held in a nearby Baptist Church erected in 1827 and destroyed by fire in 1845. When built, the present Congregational Church represented the emergence of architectural romanticism, here interpreted to a rural village setting.

Next to and south of the Church is the Rawson House, a brick, story-and-a-half, five-bayed Greek Revival structure which presents a handsome facade of tall, granite-capped windows enframing a sidelighted central doorway. Now used as the Congregational parsonage, the house has a steeply-pitched roof and a pair of tall end chimneys.



O-40. ROBINSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

1839, 1863, 1895 and later. Junction of King and High streets

The history of the Robinson Manufacturing Company is the story of one of Oxford County's oldest family-operated businesses. More significant today for its commercial and social impact than for its architectural quality, the mill nevertheless contains portions of an 1863 brick structure which, before its partial destruction by fire in December of 1866, was the finest example of a large, gable-roofed textile mill ever constructed in the county. In addition, this same mill was the largest manufacturing structure in Oxford County when completed.

The origins of the present Robinson mill complex lie in the earliest industries at this, the primary outlet of Thompson Lake. Around 1800, saw and grist mills were built here under the authority of Oxford's *de facto* proprietor, Andrew Craigie of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Craigie had already established an experimental farm on nearby Allen Hill (see O-31), and soon added a carding/weaving "factory" at the mill site. A fire resulted in the construction of a brick mill in 1839, remnants of which still exist. The Oxford Woolen Manufacturing Company, organized ten years later, found itself under the guidance of John Hall, a British clothier, who in turn encouraged Joseph Robinson, a dyer who had emigrated to this country from England in 1848, to become a partner. By 1862, when the Robinson Manufacturing Company was incorporated, Joseph Robinson had introduced numerous improvements in the production of woolen cloth; he had also taken full control of the business.

The massive brick mill that Robinson built in 1863 was originally five stories high, capped by an extended clerestory roof. A tall stair tower with octagonal cupola provided a focal point for the subtle Greek Revival detailing incorporated into the masonry surfaces. As a result of the 1866 fire, the building's top story was removed, along with much of the tower.

In 1895, an addition was made to the western end of the rebuilt mill, running

parallel to the stream. Though also altered, this later portion's west facade still presents interesting vertical window strips framed by wide brick pilasters. The nearby bridge, formerly part of Main Street, was closed to traffic when the mill again expanded in the 1970s.



"Red Mill"

On the opposite side of the stream is the "Red Mill," a small, gable-roofed brick structure that conveys an accurate picture of the county's once-numerous, pre-Civil War mill structures. Built most likely between 1846 and 1850, it has granite lintels over its window and door openings, and walls of locally manufactured brick. The larger mill complex continues to operate under Joseph Robinson's descendants as a major presence in this southern Oxford County town.

O-41. "METHODIST CHURCH"

1861, ca. 1946. High Street

Several buildings standing in close proximity to the Robinson Manufacturing Company represent the flourishing condition of Oxford Village during the mid-nineteenth century. The former Methodist Church (1861), on the northern end of High Street nearest the mill, is typical of vernacular Greek Revival churches of the period. Now empty, the church was most recently used by the local Seventh Day Adventists. The main facade is framed by paneled corner pilasters, a molded entablature, and closed gable pediment. Though the building's fenestration has been altered from nine-over-nine sash to diamond-paned windows, the structure still conveys an austere, classical character. A pair of entrance doors with transom lights were replaced about 1946 with a single, double-doored entry topped with a semi-circular wooden fan. The windows, originally bordered by tall, narrow

exterior shutters, were probably altered at the same time. The open, single stage belfry, now without its original wooden cresting, has been retained. F. A. Beal of Norway was the master builder.

To the south is a cluster of two-family workers' houses, the best examples of which are those nearest the church. Three of this group are story-and-a-half houses displaying Greek Revival moldings and symmetrical plans. They were probably erected in the mid-1860s at a time when the nearby woolen mill saw its greatest nineteenth century expansion.

North of the church, on King Street, stands a pre-1880 vernacular Greek Revival store. With its large first story windows and spacious second story living quarters, the building is a good example of the many wooden commercial structures which remain standing in Oxford County. On the opposite side is the eclectic Catholic Church of 1922-23. Of local design interest, the structure features decorative detailing taken from earlier Gothic Revival models.

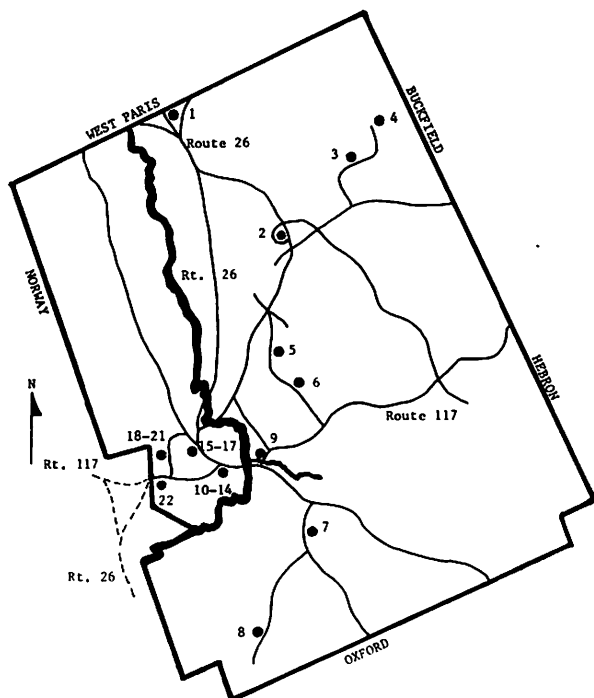


O-42. STARBIRD-PLUMMER HOUSE ("Lowfields")

1865-66. High Street

South of the Robinson mill workers' housing and on the opposite side of the street is this small-scaled but well-preserved example of a vernacular, side-hall, story-and-a-half house altered in the late nineteenth century into its present Victorian form. Built in 1865-66, the house has an open porch with turned posts and a delicate spindlework frieze; the intricate wooden gable trim on the main facade is repeated on the gable of the connected barn. The attached kitchen ell was once a cooper's shop. The house is set off nicely by a white picket fence, a common landscape element utilized at Oxford County's village homes during much of the nineteenth century. The house was formerly the home of Mrs. Kate Starbird, who later inherited the Jairus Keith House ("Highfields"; see O-34), a short distance west.

PARIS



INTRODUCTION

The shire town of Oxford County since its creation in 1805, Paris is one of western Maine's most historic and architecturally rich communities. Granted by Massachusetts in 1772 in lieu of an earlier grant of 1735 which was later discovered to be within New Hampshire's territory, Paris, or "Number Four," as it was called before incorporation in 1793, saw its first road cleared from the all-important staging town of New Gloucester in 1774. The first clearing towards permanent settlement was made in 1780 by Lemuel Jackson, Jr. of Middleborough, Massachusetts; he was soon joined by John Willis and John Daniels, both Massachusetts men. A year later, Jackson and others "burned trees and tried for a crop." During the summer of 1781, Lemuel Jackson erected a log "camp" which was the first such structure in the town (in August, a Bethel family, escaping an attack by Indians on that frontier outpost, stopped briefly here on their way to what is now the town of Hebron). With the arrival of John Willis's family early in 1782, settlement of Paris began in earnest.

Though the American Revolution interrupted the early development of the town, saw and grist mills were erected by 1784 and were followed shortly thereafter by the first framed house (1789), still extant at Paris Hill Village. The establishment in 1805 of the county's governmental center at Paris Hill naturally brought about an influx of influential and ambitious families, many of whom erected substantial houses patterned on those of Maine's older coastal communities. As a result, the village at the Hill has been rightfully called the finest example of an early nineteenth century shire town in interior Maine.

Divided by the valley of the Little Androscoggin River, Paris's hilly landscape was predominantly utilized for agriculture during the first half of the nineteenth century. A major event in the town's history, the construction in 1850 of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad (later Grand Trunk, and now Canadian National), stimulated widespread commercial development around the village of South Paris, so much so that by 1895 all county business and court facilities had been transferred there. To a large degree, South Paris was the county's center of population and productivity for the last half of the nineteenth century, and was only superceded in industrial and commercial development by the paper mill boom town of Rumford Falls in the late 1890s.

The roster of notable Maine citizens connected with Paris is a lengthy one, with Lincoln's first vice-president, Hannibal Hamlin (born at Paris Hill in 1809), leading that list. Beyond the political arena, Paris has also produced individuals of high position in the fields of business, music, and theater. The founding of the county's second newspaper, *The Oxford Observer*, in 1824, was perhaps one of the most significant early nineteenth century events here. Paris's reputation as the site of valuable mineral deposits has also brought notoriety to the town.

If the coming of the railroad caused major nineteenth century changes in the county seat's social fabric, so too has burgeoning commercial growth along Route 26 from the south had a dramatic and somewhat alarming impact on the community's important historic and architectural resources. Most noticeable has been a tendency toward "strip development," in marked contrast to the tightly-woven village centers that survive from the past. The Paris Hill and Paris Cape (South Paris) Historical Societies (founded in 1967 and 1981, respectively) are now making inroads towards visually documenting the surviving early physical characteristics of the town through a series of lecture programs and publication projects.

Despite the intrusion of new construction and the thoughtless removal of significant local landmarks, the villages of South Paris and Paris Hill continue to maintain separate identities; the former has grown alongside the village of Norway so that today they are physically inseparable. In 1957, the former Paris communities of West Paris and North Paris were set off as the town of West Paris. A "double township," Paris saw its northern population grow dramatically after the coming of the railroad, and due to the geographic separation of the town's commercial centers, the village of West Paris gained a self-sufficiency that remains today.

Paris's population stood at 2,931 citizens in 1880. The 1980 census of the town recorded 4,168 people here, with trends toward further growth a certainty.

P-1. "HUNGRY HOLLOW SCHOOLHOUSE"

ca. 1840. Route 26 at Stearns Hill Road

The least-altered of the few extant one-room schoolhouses in Paris, this small frame building stands at a busy crossroads site just south of the town's northern boundary with West Paris, set off as a separate town in 1957. The simple lines and unadorned wall surfaces speak clearly of the practical manner in which rural education was administered over a century-and-a-half ago. The structure was the last of its type used in Paris, closing its doors in 1958.

P-2. PARIS HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Paris Hill Road off Route 26 (NR)

Entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, the village of Paris Hill is one of four nationally-recognized "historic districts" located within Oxford County and remains one of the finest preserved early nineteenth century villages in inland Maine. First settled in 1780, Paris Hill was the site chosen for the county buildings when the town of Paris was made county seat in 1805. Commanding a panoramic view of the White Mountains, the village is spectacularly located on the crest of a hill 831 feet above sea level.

Because it was the seat of county government from 1805 to 1895, when new county buildings were erected at nearby South Paris Village, Paris Hill attracted many outstanding and influential families. In all, four Maine governors, three speakers of the Maine house, three presidents of the Maine senate, twelve United States representatives, two senators, and one vice president have been born or have lived on Paris Hill, a record unequalled for a square mile of land anywhere else in the country.

The buildings of Paris Hill, the majority of which are in the Federal and Greek Revival styles, are of high architectural quality. Most of the extant structures were raised between 1800 and 1860, by which time South Paris Village, through which the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad had been built, had taken over as the town's commercial heart. Compactly settled, Paris Hill Village retains an outstanding collection of early nineteenth century buildings in continuous and harmonious streetscapes that reflect a keen sense of this once-vigorous shire town village.

Though the historical integrity of the village center remains of major concern to its present-day occupants, the district as a whole is currently threatened by the encroachment of new construction, which over the last few decades has disturbed the feeling of isolation once experienced as one approached the village through open fields, woods, and orchards. While a short length of the northern end of Paris Hill Road remains open to protect the village's unique character and wholeness, the southern spur is now mostly developed. In this respect, the Paris Hill Historic District differs from similar nineteenth century building clusters at Waterford Flat (see W-5) and Bethel Hill (see B-13) which have fewer recent intrusions.

The east side of Main Street, running from the southern end north, contains some of the district's most interesting structures, including a tavern, a law office, a Federal style brick "mansion," and the town's first framed house (1789). Known originally as just the "county road," the present street was laid out in May of 1792; the town's first road was cleared in 1774 and "re-opened" five years later.

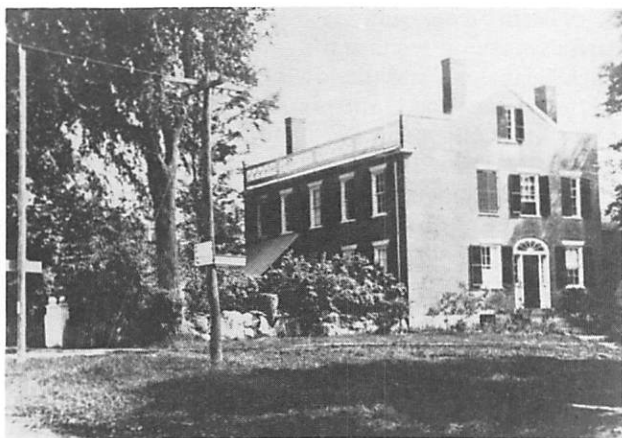
One of the village's oldest Capes, the Pray House, stands roughly halfway between the crest of the hill and Hillside Cemetery (early nineteenth century) which lies at its foot. Built in the 1790s, the five-bay frame house was moved here ca. 1845-46 by Henry Howe; in 1856 it was purchased by local merchant Thomas Crocker and given to the Baptist Church as its first parsonage. Though somewhat altered over the years, the structure is undoubtedly one of the oldest structures in the town.



Paris Hill Country Club

Near the corner of Main and Lincoln streets is the present Paris Hill Country Club (ca. 1850), an intriguing Greek Revival structure with a broad five-bay facade and inset porch featuring Doric columns supporting a heavy entablature. Purchased by the Country Club in 1912, the property once sheltered a barn built before 1793 by Lemuel Jackson, Sr., an early town settler who lived where the Jairus K. Hammond House (see below) now stands. In this barn (demolished in 1915) was ordained Paris's first minister, "Elder" James Hooper (see P-6), in June of 1795.

On the northern corner of Main and Lincoln streets is the handsome brick Thomas Crocker House, an outstanding example of the Federal style; it was built soon after 1808 on the site of the town's first schoolhouse (1800; removed 1809). Born in North Conway, New Hampshire, in 1788, Thomas Crocker came to Paris Hill soon after its establishment as county seat and opened a store on the southern corner of Main Street and Hannibal Hamlin Drive (formerly Court Street). A highly successful merchant here for some thirty-five years, Crocker was also



Thomas Crocker House

prominent in Maine political affairs, serving as a member of the governor's executive council and as a director of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad.

The Crocker House displays a more refined and boldly achieved design than most Oxford County houses of its period and materials. The five-bay facade has granite-capped multi-paned windows (probably twelve-over-twelve sash originally) and an inset doorway in a semi-elliptical opening; the off-centered, sidelighted south door boasts a fine semi-elliptical fan with tracery. A delicate wood balustrade extends across the facade between parapeted, chimneyed end walls, the only remaining example of this once-popular gable wall treatment utilized on a nineteenth century county house. Thomas Crocker's portrait now hangs in Hamlin Memorial Hall (see below).

Next to the Crocker House, on a now-open lot, stood Paris Hill's second tavern, the "Stage House," built by Solomon Hall in 1816. Sold to Crocker in 1817 and operated by numerous others during much of the century, the historic structure was demolished in 1886.

The large vernacular Victorian house standing to the north, known in recent times as "Seven Gables," dates to around 1855 and was erected on the site of the first printing office of the *Oxford Democrat* (see below) which burned in 1849. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the now much-enlarged residence was the home of Job Holmes Rawson, a mail carrier between Paris Hill and the South Paris railroad station. In the 1860s Rawson operated a popular livery stable here and sold horse and cattle patent medicines. The house now has a two-story wrap-around porch and numerous pairs of windows framed together.

Originally built by Benjamin Hammond, an early Paris settler who arrived about 1785, the Federal style one-room-deep house next door dates to around 1810 and was moved to this site in 1834 by Asa Robinson, who lived here until his death in 1846. The location was occupied soon after 1815 by a potash business operated



(l to r) Hubbard House, Parris Law Office, "Union House," Hutchinson House

by Simeon Cummings, Sr., whose father, Jesse Cummings, held title to much of the village property before it became county seat. In 1848, Stephen D. Hutchinson, just appointed as county register of deeds, purchased the house. For many years, Hutchinson ran a store once located directly across the street. The single story porch with turned posts and ornate wooden brackets was probably added between 1880 and 1900.

Among the first three men to clear land in what is now Paris was John Daniels, who arrived from New Gloucester in 1780. His son, Jacob Daniels, a "cordwainer" (shoemaker) by trade, erected the earliest portion (two rooms) of the foursquare, gabled-roofed, Federal style house next door in 1808. Immediately after Daniels' death in 1811, the house became the residence of Albion K. Parris, later Maine's second elected governor, who erected the small law office next door (see below). In 1832 Nathan H. Marble purchased the house and greatly enlarged it, opening it to the public as the "Union House." Around 1850, while under the proprietorship of Horace Cummings, the building was again enlarged by extending the present two-and-a-half story form further south, creating a multi-bayed, asymmetrical facade that in later years was partially fronted by a lengthy one-story porch. Operated as a hotel into the twentieth century, the building was reduced in size and returned to its ca. 1840 appearance in the late 1960s. Well-preserved in its austere clapboarded wall covering, the house has a particularly distinguished doorway composed of a Palladian motif within a semi-elliptical arch.

The historic Albion K. Parris Law Office, long thought to date to 1809, was apparently built in 1811, the year this site was purchased by the town's third lawyer and one of Paris Hill's most notable former citizens. While here, Parris was elected a member of the state legislature, a senator from Oxford and Somerset counties, and a representative to Congress, serving as a Democrat from 1815 to

1819. A principal leader in the movement to separate Maine from Massachusetts, Parris moved to Portland in 1819 when appointed judge of the United States district court. Besides serving as Maine's second governor (1822-1827), Parris was elected the first president of the Maine Historical Society and mayor of Portland, the latter just before his death in 1857.

The Parris Law Office is indeed a rare survival and, in its largely unaltered appearance, stands as the only intact nineteenth century example of its type in the county. The building is rectangular in shape, has an entry at a right angle to the front, and formerly had a low balustrade atop its hip roof. Now removed, this decorative device gave the structure a high-style quality still evident in many of the surrounding buildings. Among those who later had an office here were Enoch Lincoln (Maine's third governor), Elijah L. Hamlin, Timothy Jarvis Carter, and Congressman Rufus K. Goodenow.

The three-story frame "Hubbard House," standing next door, is a local landmark which, in facing west across the expansive village Common, assumes a position worthy of its architectural merit and historic importance. Begun in 1807 and completed a few years later as a two-story, gable-roofed Federal style house, the now much-enlarged structure was the early nineteenth century home of Levi Hubbard, a Massachusetts state senator and congressman who arrived in Paris in 1785, and of his son, Russell Hubbard, who operated a store (razed 1959) north of the house from ca. 1807 to his death in 1836. Tradition states that the first Masonic meeting in Paris was held in 1807 in "Hubbard's Hall," a spacious second-story room created when partitions suspended from hooks were removed (another version gives Morse's Tavern, built ca. 1803 at South Paris Village, as the location). Hiram Hubbard, Russell Hubbard's son and a popular state representative and senator, added the third story in 1860; he opened the home as a hotel eight years later. Operated as a summer resort by the Hubbard family until 1938, the house was remodeled in 1860 using mainly Italianate decorative devices, including the widely-overhanging eaves and elaborated cornice with scroll-like modillions. A one-story porch encircling the house and a square cupola (both added in 1868) were removed when the building again became a private residence in 1940. A fine Federal doorway, identical to that on the "Union House" (see above) and "The Mallow" (see below), remains on the facade.

Between the Hubbard House and Tremont Street (laid out in 1855) is a small, gable-to-the-street house with Italianate characteristics built in 1854 by Benjamin Bates and Alfred Andrews. It has been the Baptist Church Parsonage since 1890.

Historic as Paris Hill's first tavern, "The Mallow" is a two-and-a-half story frame house standing opposite the Hubbard House and the Parris Law Office. Begun in 1802 by Nathan Woodbury, the structure was sold in 1806 to Jonathan Bemis, who opened it to the public as the first village hostelry. His sons, Augustus and Jonathan, Jr., were both successful clockmakers, and an example of the latter's craftsmanship remains on display at Hamlin Memorial Hall. The house was purchased by the Hubbard family in 1921 and, after several modifications, including the removal of the original barn and the raising of the rear ell, served for many years as the Hubbard House annex. Like the "Union House" and Hubbard



"The Mallow"

House, "The Mallow" boasts an entrance doorway with semi-circular fan set in a semi-elliptical arch.

Of the ten structures that stand from the Tremont Street junction with Main Street to the district's northern boundary, several are of architectural and historic importance. A portion of the two-and-a-half story, gable-to-the-street, vernacular Greek Revival house standing on the corner dates to just after 1810; as a one-story commercial structure, it stood nearer the Hubbard Store (see above) before Tremont Street was opened.

Beyond the George Atwood House (1900), a Colonial Revival, hip-roofed building with a two-story pedimented porch, is the Charles F. Cummings House, a well-restored high-posted Cape built in the late 1830s. Its most distinctive architectural qualities are illustrated by the heavily-entablatured, sidelighted Greek Revival doorway, the returning cornice forming closed pediments on the gable ends, and the transomed doorway at the center of the south gable wall. Next door is "Owl's Nest," a rambling frame structure begun in the 1850s by Charles F. Cummings, and added to during several major remodelings. Massachusetts state senator Prentiss Cummings had his residence here at the turn-of-the-century. The Rufus K. Goodenow House ("Seven Hearths") stands below; it was built sometime around 1837 and exhibits a traditional gable-roofed form of two-and-a-half stories with a five-bayed facade and tall end chimneys. Born in Henniker, New Hampshire, in 1790, Goodenow came to Paris in 1821 as the first clerk of the judicial court, an office he held for sixteen years. A village lawyer and farmer, he also served one term in Congress.

The date of initial construction (ca. 1812) and the distinctive fan doorway of the house below place it well within the architectural confines of the Federal period. Begun by local housewright Amos Armsby, the now much enlarged structure has an uncommon two-and-a-half story gabled facade with an off-centered entrance doorway and a returning cornice in the triangular pediment.

Among the many owners have been Simeon Walton, a Paris/Norway jeweller who lived there in the 1850s, and Samuel Rawson Carter, lawyer, county register of probate, and owner/editor of the local weekly, the *Oxford Register*. Skilled in scientific knowledge, Carter also made in-depth studies of Paris's abundant mineral resources.



"The Old House"

"The Old House," one of Paris's most historic structures, was built by the town's first settler, Lemuel Jackson, Jr., as the first framed house in Paris; the main timbers were pegged in place in April of 1789. The first fourth of July celebration held in this vicinity (then northern York and Cumberland counties) took place shortly thereafter when Dr. Ebenezer Taylor, the speaker for the occasion, mounted a rum hogshead placed on end in the dooryard and addressed a large crowd.

In December 1779, the first lots purchased for actual settlement in the town were sold. The following year Lemuel Jackson, Jr., John Daniels, and John Willis arrived to fell trees and burn over acreage enough to plant a crop the next year, which seems to have occurred. Sometime in the spring or early summer of 1781, Jackson erected a log house just west of the present "Pioneer Cemetery" (see below) which served as a temporary shelter until the present house was built. Soon after this, Lemuel Jackson provided an extra incentive for further settlement of the town — he built Paris's first saw and grist mills (1783 and 1784, respectively) on Stony Brook, at the eastern edge of present-day South Paris Village. "The Old House" was sold in 1805 to Captain Samuel Rawson, a saddler who came with his family from Grafton, Massachusetts, the year previous. After Rawson built the large brick mansion next door (see below), the house became the residence of his daughter, Arabella, and her husband, congressman and Bethel native Timothy Jarvis Carter. Originally constructed by early Paris housewright Solomon Bryant, the Jackson House has undergone several major remodelings, including the addition of Greek Revival decorative detail on the oldest portion,

and the construction of a much later ell off the east gable wall. The house is still occupied by Rawson descendants.



"Old Brick"

Built between 1813 and 1815, the Samuel Rawson House, on the village's northern perimeter, is the finest Federal style house of brick in Oxford County. Unequaled in its own region, the three-story house ranks well with similar "mansions" erected in coastal seaports such as Portland and Portsmouth. The house was constructed of materials from the immediate vicinity; it has also been stated that the bricks for the Dr. Timothy Carter House ("Brick-End House") at Middle Intervale in Bethel (see B-7) also came from Paris Hill (Dr. Carter was the father of Timothy Jarvis Carter, mentioned above).

"Old Brick" has a central hall and side entrance plan, granite-capped multi-paned windows, and tall pairs of end chimneys. The low hip roof is encircled by a delicate wooden balustrade. The main entrance with its Federal style louvered wood fan and sidelights contrasts with the Greek Revival side entry which has boldly formed corner pilasters and roof balustrade. Captain Samuel Rawson was a lieutenant of artillery during the War of 1812 and retired to Paris Hill after the war's end. After his death, the house passed to his daughter, Frances, whose husband, William K. Kimball, was a lawyer, clerk of the courts, United States marshal for Maine (1857-61), and brigadier general during the Civil War. An avid states rights Democrat, Kimball entertained many notables at "Old Brick"; Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy, made a visit here in 1854. Kimballs' son, Admiral William Wirt Kimball, was a later owner. His action in leading the Nicaraguan Expedition of the Spanish-American War and his advocacy of the use of submarines earned him an important place in U.S. military history. Maintained through the years by Rawson descendants, "Old Brick" stands today as an important link with Paris Hill's early years as an influential center of county political and social life.

The "Parris House," a two-and-a-half story Federal style residence standing on the western side of Main Street a short distance south of the Rawson mansion, was begun around 1818 by early town settler George Ryerson. Like the Armsby House across the street, it presents a broad (in this case, five-bayed) gabled facade to the street. The Federal style, as seen in early nineteenth century Oxford County houses, almost always provides for the main facade entrance *away* from the gable end, and the few sizeable houses not following this rule are almost wholly confined to Paris Hill Village. In 1853, the wood-framed structure became the home of Virgil D. Parris, lawyer, congressman and acting governor of Maine (1844). A first cousin of Maine governor Albion Keith Parris, Virgil D. Parris was born in neighboring Buckfield and was a major force in the creation of the Buckfield Branch Railroad (see C-3). The "Parris House" is important for being similar in exterior appearance to the Dr. Cyrus Hamlin House (see below) before the latter was much remodeled in the Colonial Revival style.

A short distance south is the entrance to the Pioneer Cemetery (before 1802) where some of the town's first settlers and the village's earliest residents are buried. The private Knoll Cemetery, adjoining, holds the graves of numerous Rawson family members.

The story-and-a-half Greek Revival side-hall-plan house above was constructed about 1857 and originally stood at the corner of Lincoln and Tremont streets. Built by Emerson Colburn, whose father's house was earlier on this site, the building is now referred to as the "Hitching Post." Beyond the Colburn House is the Simon H. Cummings House, a high-posted Cape (ca. 1835-40) that in overall form resembles the Charles F. Cummings House (see above) across the street. Simon H. Cummings was a lieutenant colonel in the volunteer "Paris Rifle Company," organized in 1821, and owned a saw mill built about 1840 on Smith Brook, east of Paris Hill. A blacksmith shop, later used as a carriage shop, once stood on the property.

Built soon after 1816, the Jonas Cummings House stands further south, nearer the Common. Its two-and-a-half story form has been modified slightly, giving the impression of a later vernacular Greek Revival residence, rather than one of the Federal period, to which it actually belongs.

On the northern corner of Main Street and Hannibal Hamlin Drive is the much rebuilt store of Simeon Cummings, Sr. Originally begun soon after 1807, the store was converted into a residence by Simeon Cummings, Jr. soon after his father's death in 1831. It is most likely that the present, two-and-a-half story main portion with Federal style entrance doorway dates from this time. The house was again rebuilt, using mainly Italianate embellishments, upon Simeon Cummings' death in 1866. Early in this century, the house was the home of Captain Harry Lyon, who served as the navigating officer of the plane "Southern Cross," which made the first trans-Pacific flight (from the American coast to Australia) in 1929. Since that time, the building has been known as "Lyonsden."

The present Paris Hill First Baptist Church, a fine Greek Revival temple-like structure, stands very near the site of an earlier, "second period" meetinghouse built in 1803 by local carpenter/builder Isaiah Fuller and razed in 1838, the year



First Baptist Church

the present church was completed. Following eighteenth century architectural tradition, the earlier church had an exterior form very domestic in nature, with a rectangular gable-roofed plan, two tiers of windows, and a lofty bell tower attached to the east gable wall. The interior, as austere as the exterior, contained a high pulpit with "sounding board," and galleries around three sides. From 1805 to 1815, when the first Oxford County Courthouse (see below) was completed, court was held here. In 1821, a Revere Foundry bell was purchased and placed in the belfry to call citizens to church *and* to court. Paris town meetings, previously held in local barns, schoolhouses, and private homes, moved here at the meetinghouse's completion.

Though the old meetinghouse is recorded as being in poor condition by the late 1830s, its replacement in 1838 was probably more a result of Paris Hill's important position as county seat. The second church (1838), when completed, was one of the first public buildings in Oxford County to reflect a straight-forward interpretation of the then-emerging Greek Revival style in Maine. The east-facing gable end consists of a two-story portico supported by four Doric columns and reached by a broad flight of wooden steps. Raised on a high basement story of brick (purposely constructed for town meeting use), the clapboarded structure is four bays deep but has round-arch windows that are more Federal in character than Greek Revival. The wide entablature below the closed pediment does *not* continue around the building, as is the case with many Maine churches in the style. Astride the front gable, a tall, square base supports an open belfry containing the 1821 bell from the old building. Above the belfry is a four-sided clock given to the town in 1883 by its most notable native son, Hannibal Hamlin.

In 1860, the interior of the First Baptist Church was remodeled, at which time the pews were replaced and the high pulpit exchanged for a simple platform stage. Four years later, the vestry extension was added to the rear. The church was again refurbished and otherwise repaired in 1875.

The "meetinghouse Common," running from Hannibal Hamlin Drive to "The Mallow," was deeded to the builders of the original church in April 1803. The "county Common," taking in the land further south where the early county buildings stand, was deeded to the newly formed county in October 1805.

To the north of the church and behind "Lyonsden" is the ca. 1818 Simeon Cummings, Sr. House, a fine Federal style residence with a well-composed fan doorway, tall end chimneys, and fenestration displaying very small panes of glass. The attached English barn was originally detached and stood at the western end of the lot. The house was for many years the home of the Misses Dodd of the Dodd-Mead publishing family. Its well-restored condition does much to convey the early nineteenth century character of the Common's northern edge.

Next door stands the village's only Mansard or Second Empire style structure, the Benjamin S. Doe House. Doe was once an active carpenter and housewright in the Paris area and built his own two-story home in the 1870s. As a symbol of high European fashion, the Doe House marked the climax of Paris Hill's architectural development; soon new construction would confine itself to the prospering village of South Paris.



Deacon John Willis House

The Deacon John Willis House is one of Oxford County's most architecturally interesting hip-roofed Federal style dwellings. The four-bayed, two-story house was constructed for one of the town's earliest settlers, John Willis, and his wife, Patience Jackson, daughter of another early resident, Lemuel Jackson, Sr. John Willis purchased land in Paris (then "Number Four") in 1779 and came in 1780 to establish a farmstead on a site located further west and at a slightly lower elevation. It was here, in March of 1782, that Patience Willis was "drawn by moose-sled" from New Gloucester, making the Willis family the first to settle permanently in the town. Two years before his death at the age of fifty-eight, "Deacon" John Willis re-established himself on a conspicuous spot on the western

edge of the new shire town village and erected his foursquare, center-chimneyed house. From 1920 until her death in 1947, Miss Emily Bissell, founder of the Christmas Seal program in the United States, made this her summer residence. Interestingly, in 1887, thundercloud studies were conducted by the United States Signal Corps and Harvard University Observatory from a west-facing second floor room of the Willis House.



Dr. Cyrus Hamlin House

The Dr. Cyrus Hamlin House, as a nearby commemorative boulder states, was the birthplace in 1809 of his son, Hannibal Hamlin, later vice president during Lincoln's first term. Begun in early 1807, soon after Hamlin purchased a large tract of land on the western and southern sides of the two village Commons, the now much-enlarged house reflects major changes in the Colonial Revival style, carried out around 1922. At that time, the original ell off the south wall and an early nineteenth century connected barn were demolished and replaced by the present four-car garage and covered breezeway. To the main house, with its uncommon broad-gabled facade, were added shed dormers, a sidelighted entrance doorway with a broken triangular pediment, and the pair of full facade porches along the south and north walls. The latter have square columns (vernacular Doric simplifications) and flat roofs. The rooftop balustrade and carefully manicured grounds give the Hamlin House an elegant quality only matched by the Rawson House (see above) at the village's northern edge.

Dr. Cyrus Hamlin came to Paris from Livermore, Maine, in 1806; a practicing physician there, he had earlier married Anna Livermore, daughter of town founder and patriarch "Deacon" Elijah Livermore. Hamlin assumed the post of first county clerk of courts and maintained a high position within the community until his death in 1829. His son, Hannibal, left Paris for a career in law and was eventually elected a U.S. representative and senator, governor of Maine, and in 1860, vice president, a position he held until 1865. A resident of Bangor from 1861 until his

death in 1891, Hamlin served as collector of the port of Boston and minister to Spain. Hamlin and Nelson A. Rockefeller are the only Maine natives to have become vice president. The Hamlin birthplace left the family in 1860 and was eventually purchased by Kimball Atwood, a developer of the Florida grapefruit industry. Under Atwood's ownership, the present mansion-like appearance of the structure was achieved. It was Atwood who gave the house the name "Northlands"; the view west from the house is one of the county's finest.



"Hamlin Memorial Hall"

Historic as Oxford County's jail during much of the nineteenth century, the two-story granite ashlar building next door was built in 1822 and replaced a log jail erected further west in 1810. Known today as "Hamlin Memorial Hall," the structure held local prisoners within its sixteen-inch walls until new county buildings were constructed at South Paris in 1895. Soon after its abandonment, the jail was deeded in trust by the heirs of Jesse Cummings (to whom the four county buildings reverted) to Dr. Augustus Choate Hamlin (a nephew of Hannibal Hamlin); the building was transferred to the Paris Hill Library Association in 1902. Hamlin directed the remodeling of the structure, which included the removal of the inner partitions and second floor, and the replacement of the original gable roof with a hipped, stamped metal roof with a low dome. At the same time, a wooden pallisade around the outside (indicated by an extant granite footing) and a narrow, two-story entrance porch with outside stairs to the second floor cells were also removed. Named for a deceased son of Dr. Hamlin (and *not* for his famous uncle, as is often presumed), the "Hall" became a library and museum; several portraits of Paris Hill notables, a primitive painting of the village executed about 1802, a birch bark map of the Rangeley Lakes region created by the early Indian guide Metallak, and an extensive local mineral collection assembled by Samuel Rawson Carter and his son, Jarvis, remain among the outstanding artifacts

on display here. In 1953-54, the roof was returned to its original form, and a second floor of wood was constructed to better utilize the interior space.



*(l to r) Old Oxford County Courthouse, "Jailer's House,"
"The Registry"*

The vernacular Greek Revival house next door was built in 1857 as the second "jailer's house" in the village; the first, located on the same site, was a five-bayed, hip-roofed, two-story house built around 1822 and destroyed shortly before the present extended house was built. The house was used by the county until 1895.

Across the street and facing south on the "county Common" is "The Registry," an austere brick Federal structure dating to 1826. The two-and-a-half story building was used as a registry of deeds and registry of probate until the South Paris buildings were opened. Domestic in scale and appearance, the building has an entrance set in a semi-elliptical blind arch and indications of structural expansion to the rear.

The old Oxford County Courthouse, the center of county business for most of the nineteenth century, was begun as a Federal style, two-and-a-half story brick building in 1814. Like many churches of the period, the entrance wall, in this case one of three bays, was located on the gable end; the side walls were four bays long, making a rectangular-shaped building. In 1823, the upper half of the facade wall was brought forward and placed on four square piers, creating a rather unorthodox design that nevertheless provided for expanded court facilities; in 1864 the building was again enlarged, this time with a wood-frame addition of some twenty-five feet off the rear wall. Whether the original facade design, by an as yet unknown architect, featured the present second-story tripart window, one cannot say. The first story retains a double-doored entry capped by a broad, semi-elliptical fan.

During the years between the county's formation (1805) and the raising of the first courthouse, official court cases were heard in the 1803 meetinghouse on the

Common. For several years the registry's records were kept at Morse's Tavern at South Paris Village by the county's first register of deeds, Joseph Rust. Now privately owned but well-maintained, the old Courthouse ceased to be used in late December 1895 when all county records and business were transferred to South Paris.

"Cross Roads," the residence of Judge Stephen Emery (father-in-law of Hannibal Hamlin who was twice married in this house), is a large, gable-roofed Federal style structure that stands facing north on the southern side of the "county Common." Built in 1818, the house was, until 1858, the home of this influential judge of probate, state attorney general (under Governor Fairfield), and chairman of the state board of education.

The open lot directly across Hamlin Drive from the Emery House was the site of the Paris Hill Universalist Church, an Italianate structure with lofty spire designed by Bethel architect Thomas Holt (see B-12, O-32, and W-2) and completed in 1859. In 1952, a store on the corner lot to the east burned and the church was so damaged by the fire that it was dismantled; materials from the building were used to construct a church still standing in Farmingdale, Maine.

Portions of the vernacular, two-story "Old Printing Office" on Main Street may date to around 1816; the extension to the north was built in the third quarter of the nineteenth century for the village post office (located here from 1874 to around 1922). The *Oxford Democrat* was printed here from 1850 to 1895 when it moved to the new Billings Block (1895; see P-13) at Market Square, South Paris Village. The present building replaced an older office which stood across the street and was destroyed by fire in 1849 (see above). The "Old Printing Office" retains an exterior that looks much as it did when the newspaper was produced here.

As county seat and an important business center on the country's first international railroad, the town of Paris was early an advantageous site for newspaper publishing. The county's first paper, *Russell's Echo*, published in Fryeburg (see F-21), was followed in 1824 by the county's second newspaper, *The Oxford Observer*, published at Paris Hill by Hanover, Maine, native Asa Barton. Not known for being a practical printer, Barton attempted to offset any losses by operating what he called the "Oxford County Bookstore." In March 1827, a few months after Barton had moved his establishment to Norway, a number of prominent Democrats on the Hill started *The Jeffersonian*, a weekly printed here until 1833. At one time, Hannibal Hamlin and Horatio King (a Paris native who later became U.S. postmaster general) owned and operated the paper. In August of 1833 the first number of the *Oxford Democrat* was printed at Paris Hill and continued here until its move to South Paris. The *Democrat* merged with the *Norway Advertiser* in 1933. In 1850, publication of the *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* (now the *Advent Review*) began at Paris Hill; in 1852, the paper moved to Saratoga Springs, New York. The *Oxford Register*, made up originally of columns from the *Maine Democrat* (published in Biddeford) was begun in 1869; from 1871 to 1875 it was published at Paris Hill under the ownership and editorial guidance of local businessman Samuel Rawson Carter.

Begun in Andover, Maine, in 1879, the *Maine Evangelist* was published briefly from 1880 to 1881 in South Paris.



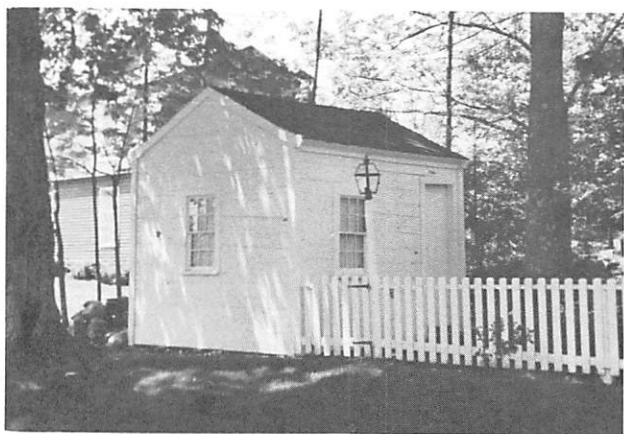
Paris Hill Academy

The former Paris Hill Academy, built in 1856, was fashioned in the Italianate style using architectural details mainly from correct Renaissance examples. Well-proportioned and articulated by a richly elaborated cornice, the two-and-a-half story building presents a tall, three-bayed, pedimented facade to the street. The structure is surmounted by an open belfry containing a bell presented to the school by Edward L. Parris, son of Virgil D. Parris (see above), in 1892. The building was completed in less than a year's time, thanks to the efforts of local citizens, fifty-two of whom contributed money for the materials and land. High school classes began in 1857 with seventy-eight students enrolled; the last class graduated in 1901. Today, the handsome, carefully-preserved structure is maintained as a community hall.

South of the Academy and at the southern end of a now-abandoned section of the "Old County Road" is the Jairus K. Hammond House, a vernacular Greek Revival residence with a three-bay gable end, a sidelighted doorway, and a Victorian period wrap-around porch on the first story. Built in 1853 from parts of the ca. 1790 Lemuel Jackson, Sr. House, torn down that year, the Hammond House is important as the home of a locally-prominent saw mill owner and carpenter/builder.

Standing east of Main Street, a number of structures on Lincoln Street are of architectural or historic significance. On the north side of the street, directly behind the Thomas Crocker House, is a Greek Revival, five-bayed house whose front portion was built by Judge Joseph G. Cole around 1845; the attached rear ell, built by Dr. Benjamin Chandler, is much plainer and certainly earlier. The house was the residence of Maine Governor Sidney Perham (elected 1871) in the last years of his life. Noteworthy features are the entablatured, inset entrance

doorway, narrow paneled corner pilasters, and the returning cornice on the gable ends. One of the village's earliest tanneries stood just west of this site.



Burnham Clock Shop

Further east, on the opposite side, is a vernacular Queen Anne house displaying textured walls of patterned shingles and a porch railing utilizing an intricate cutout pattern. A rare example of a small, flush-boarded shop (ca. 1810) stands on the north side of the street to the east. Originally built by Paris Hill clockmaker Enoch Burnham, it once stood fronting Main Street south of the "Old Printing Office" (see above). Burnham was active during the period ca. 1790 to ca. 1820. The former clockshop was moved to this site and used as a doctor's office by Dr. Asaph Kittridge, who owned the Cape next door (built soon after 1825 by Nathan Ryerson).

"Cotswold," the former summer home of William P. Potter, chief justice of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, is one of the county's finest Italianate houses and certainly one of the most high-style examples in the town of Paris. Built in 1880 by powder mill magnate Jarvis Carter Marble (see below) for his son, Elmer Marble, the center-gabled, two-and-a-half story house has a bracketed cornice, pedimented window caps, bay windows, and an open, arch-roofed entry porch. A picket fence with posts surmounted by wooden urns fronts the property; it probably dates to early in this century when the Colonial Revival taste for earlier architectural forms found favor with village residents. The Harlow House next door was begun as a story-and-a-half house in 1834 and raised to two-and-a-half stories in the late nineteenth century. Its vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style is in marked contrast with the more stylistically-correct Marble House to the west.

The extensive, connected farmstead directly across the street was raised in the late 1840s by Bethel native Jarvis Carter Marble, a highly successful owner/operator of gun powder mills. In 1845, at the age of twenty-four, Marble purchased the



"Cotswold"

Buckfield Powder Mills (see B-36) and soon after took a half-interest in similar operations in Camden. During the next decade, mills were built at Plattville, Wisconsin; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Windsor, Ontario under Marble's direction and financial backing. After selling his powder mill interests in 1878, Marble devoted himself to lumbering and mining operations. Additionally, Marble served two years in the Maine state legislature in the 1880s. Besides its interesting series of barns and ells, the Marble Farmstead boasts a Greek Revival main house with an entablatured, inset doorway and an intriguing five-sided extension off the first-story east wall.

The Italianate style house beyond was built in 1879 for the daughter of Jarvis C. Marble, Mrs. Orlando Thayer. Its ornate detailing is very similar to that on "Cotswold" to the west. Two bays wide to the street, the structure has a modillioned cornice and a handsome entry porch with composite columns and roof balustrade.

Set back from the street where it connects with Christian Ridge Road, the Joseph Jackson House (ca. 1819) is a gable-roofed, two-and-a-half story structure with a three-bayed facade and a central hall arrangement. The Victorian period porch and Colonial Revival interior alterations were carried out by the third Jackson generation. Noted as an orchard farm during much of the nineteenth century, the property retains some of its early barns, now modernized.

P-3. ASA PERRY HOUSE

1801. Thayer Road off Mount Mica Road

Once part of a massive connected farmstead, this early nineteenth century Cape now stands without any of its dependencies a short distance east of its original site.

Containing remarkable interior walls of fielded paneling, the low-posted house was erected in 1801 by early town settler Asa Perry to replace a log house raised near the original site in 1797. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the then-prosperous farmstead was owned by Perry's grandson, Alexander S. Thayer, who also achieved status as an influential town official.

Across the road is the Maxim-Wright House, a nineteenth century vernacular farmstead that was once owned by Paris historian and building contractor Silas P. Maxim. Much of the material for the town's voluminous 1884 *History* was assembled here, in a room which projects slightly from the house's west wall.



P-4. URIAH RIPLEY HOUSE ("Orange F. Small House")

ca. 1814. Crocker Hill ("Mt. Hope") off Thayer Road

Built in a commanding rural location above the old county seat at Paris Hill, this central-chimneyed, hip-roofed Federal style house has a broad five-bayed facade facing a panorama of mountains to the west. The general plan of the building (which now has modern fenestration) is that usual in many houses with large center chimneys: in the front, two rooms flank a small entry hall, while in the rear a long room with a large fireplace is located at the center with small corner rooms to each side. The two front rooms of the Ripley House have woodwork in simple Federal style, including wainscoting, window surrounds, and mantels. The rooms at the rear are sheathed in a combination of vertical and horizontal boards. The only exterior decorative feature, the large, transomed entrance doorway, boasts an enframement including paneled pilasters in a style more often seen in interior Federal mantel design. The entablature, above the transom, is deeply denticulated and worked with a row of circular depressions alternating with the dentils. Though differing in its lighter scale and detail, the Ripley doorway is similar to that on the David Warren House in Hartford (see H-12).

Uriah Ripley settled in Paris in 1795 and erected a log house near this site the following year. A large boulder at the rear of the present house has the date "1814" cut into it which, together with stylistic evidence, suggests the house's probable date.



P-5. CYPRIAN STEVENS HOUSE

ca. 1795. Hooper Ledge Road

The home of Paris's first-settled physician, the Cyprian Stevens House is one of the town's oldest Capes and displays an uncommon three-bay facade containing a centered entrance doorway with transom light and framing pilasters. The rather primitive looking home is part of a four-unit connected farmstead that contains what tradition gives as the first framed barn raised in Paris.

One of the petitioners for the town's incorporation in 1792, Stevens came to "Number Four" around 1789 and quickly established himself as one of the few doctors in what was then the northern frontier of Cumberland County. So active was he in attending patients from surrounding communities that his own health became undermined, and he died in 1806 at the age of thirty-seven.

P-6. "ELDER HOOPER HOUSE"

ca. 1797. Hooper Ledge Road

Retaining much of its early character, the Paris farmstead of the Reverend James Hooper reflects the spirit and personality of the town's first settled minister (1795). The two-storied, hip-roofed main house, on a rise above the road, has an asymmetrical, four-bayed facade that is presently shingled, though the house was



once clapboarded. On the interior, a first floor room to the left of the transom-lit entrance door is sheathed in vertical boards; the fireplace wall is simply paneled.

The Hooper property was operated as a hay farm during the early twentieth century ownership of the Austin family. Connected to the house on the left is a fine three-level barn set into the hill with its top story opening directly onto the fields at the rear.

Beginning in December 1830, Elder Hooper contributed a series of valuable articles entitled "A Short History of Paris" to the columns of the local newspaper, *The Jeffersonian*. Hooper served his Baptist congregation in the old meeting-house at Paris Hill (see P-2) until 1838, dying four years later. His tomb is located by the side of the road just down the hill from this late eighteenth century house.

P-7. STOWELL-WALKER HOUSE

ca. 1810. East Oxford Road

Illustrating the type of stylistic "updating" frequently seen on numerous county buildings, the Stowell-Walker House was probably raised around 1810 for Daniel Stowell, an early man of affairs in Paris, who came to the town in 1796. With its hip roof and large fan doorway, the house, as originally built, was typical in appearance of many two-storied Federal style houses constructed throughout the county. Indeed, the entrance doorway is very similar in scale and character to that on the brick-ended William C. Whitney House (see O-24) located further south on the East Oxford Road.

Pictured in the 1884 *History of Paris* with its sheds and barn essentially as they stand today, the house was long the residence of the Reverend Joseph Walker, first minister of the Congregational Church in Paris (see P-10). The decorative porch and denticulated cornice of Victorian character were probably added shortly before the turn-of-the-century.



P-8. ROBINSON-PARSONS HOUSE

ca. 1795, 1803. Parsons Road off East Oxford Road (NR)

The earliest of three brick-ended Federal style houses remaining in the county (see also B-7 and O-24), the Robinson-Parsons House is a distinctive residence notable for its fine architectural quality in a largely rural setting. Stephen Robinson came from Barre, Massachusetts, to Paris (then "Number Four") in 1787 and purchased one hundred acres, now the core of this sprawling farmstead. The wood-frame ell is most likely an earlier house, expanded in 1803 with the construction of the two-and-a-half story brick-ended house. Like many ambitious dwellings of its period, this later portion achieves its Federal character through a refinement of earlier Colonial building traditions; as is the case with many large county houses, the architectural quality of the Robinson-Parsons House stems mostly from its proportions and texture. The classical front entrance with semi-circular glass fan, bold entablature, and framing pilasters is similar in scale to that on the David Warren House (ca. 1805; see H-12) in the town of Hartford. The finely-crafted wood carving along the cornice lends sophistication to an otherwise plain, clapboarded facade. Two pairs of tall end-wall chimneys rise above the moderately-pitched roof.

The interior of the Robinson-Parsons House, where Stephen Robinson's eleven children were raised to maturity, contains several important features, including rooms with wall stenciling, inside window shutters, and shallow window seats. A hinged partition between two large second floor rooms allowed for dances and social gatherings. Apphia Robinson, Stephen's sixth child, later married John Parsons, and the farmstead has remained in the hands of their descendants to this day.



P-9. CORNWALL INDUSTRIES BUILDING

ca. 1847-48. Hill Street at East Main Street

One of the county's finest brick nineteenth century commercial structures, this two-and-a-half story, gable-to-the-street building was constructed about 1847 as a storage and sales area for the nearby Hersey plow manufactory. Unchanged on the exterior except for the shortening of the second story side windows and the installation of modern entrance doors, the symmetrically designed structure has well-laid masonry walls broken by granite-capped, multi-paned windows. Presently used as offices for a local furniture and novelty-producing firm, the building was also utilized for many years by the Paris Grange.

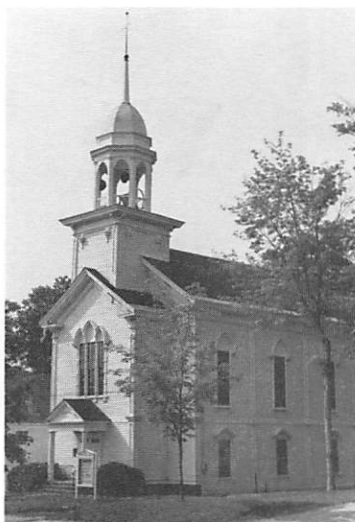
Slightly north is a small brick Cape with an unaltered five-bay facade. The house has been dated to about 1870. Further north on Hill Street, on the opposite side, is the somewhat altered Federal style hip-roofed King-Durgin House. Between Hill Street and the Buckfield Road (Route 117) stands the Hersey-Downing House (ca. 1875), a two-and-a-half story, cruciform-plan house with cupola; it exhibits a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate design characteristics.

A short distance upstream on Stony Brook (which flows beside the Cornwall Building) is the site of Paris's first saw and grist mills, erected in 1783-84 by Paris Hill settler Lemuel Jackson, Jr. (see P-2).

P-10. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1818, 1835, 1851, 1859, 1878. East Main Street

The first Congregational society in the town of Paris was organized at South Paris in 1812. Six years passed before the society raised its first meetinghouse, "a plain, substantial structure with two rows of small windows, 24 lights, no steeple,



no chimney, lathed and plastered inside." Originally located at "Brimstone Corner" on the East Oxford Road at its junction with the Parsons (then the Robinson) Road, the building had the high pulpit and galleries of earlier eighteenth century "second period" meetinghouses, the only remaining local example of which is the "Bullockite" meetinghouse at Porter (see P-38). In the fall of 1835, the meetinghouse was taken down and re-erected on its present site in the village proper by George King, the original carpenter. A belfry with an octagonal shingled dome, still extant, was the only major addition. In 1851 the pulpit and galleries were lowered and the box pews replaced by "modern" pews. In 1859 a vestry was put beneath and the building extended by local carpenters Augustus and Erastus King. The present Victorian finish, including pointed-arch window hoods, was applied in 1878.

On the interior of the church, pressed metal walls and ceilings were put on in 1925, the galleries having been completely removed at some point, probably in the 1878 repair. The present door and entrance portico are quite recent additions. Behind the church is one of the few surviving hearse houses in Oxford County.

Next to the church is the Abijah Hall-Haskell House (ca. 1830 and later), a late Federal style residence with a five-bayed gabled facade to the street. Retaining elements of a Colonial Revival finish applied around the turn-of-the-century, the building, which may originally have been hip-roofed, was once a dormitory/boarding house for the Oxford Normal Institute, the nineteenth century secondary school whose building was opposite on the site of the present Mildred Fox School.



Hall-Haskell House



P-11. ALVAH HERSEY HOUSE

ca. 1865. East Main Street

Now in a neglected state and in need of immediate preservation, the Alvah Hersey House is a monumental example of the Mansard or Second Empire style and represents the apex of this architectural motif as it developed in Oxford County. The nineteenth century home of Alvah Hersey, one of Paris's leading businessmen, the imposing, cube-shaped dwelling was designed by an as yet unknown architect.

Alvah Hersey came to South Paris Village from the nearby town of Sumner in

1837 and joined his brother in the manufacture of cast-iron plows, later developed in the 1840s as the popular "Hersey Plow." In 1850, Hersey became the first station agent for the nearby Grand Trunk Railway, a position he retained well into the 1880s.

The Hersey House is capped by a concave mansard roof pierced with segmental-arched dormers and topped with large brick chimneys. Encircling the roof is a widely-projecting cornice embellished with modillions and dentils. This surface treatment is carried over onto the window heads and porch entablatures. The building has unfortunately lost its original multi-paned sash, front entrance doorway, and facade porch supports. A well-conceived wooden balustrade located atop the facade porch roof was also removed long ago. Despite these alterations, the Hersey House keenly reflects the prosperity of what was once the county's largest population center.

To the rear of the Hersey House is the Elder House (ca. 1845; possibly earlier), combining a gable-to-the-street form with Gothic Revival decorative detailing, including a flush-boarded facade with windows capped in hooded drip moldings. West of the Hersey House is the Dr. Rounds House (1890s), an interesting local interpretation of the Queen Anne style.



P-12. FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
1902-1903. Pine Street

Designed by local builder Silas P. Maxim (who also co-authored the town's 1884 *History*) and completed late in 1903, the vernacular Victorian First Universalist Church consists of a hip-roofed two-story main block with a shingle-covered corner tower having Moorish-like characteristics. On the interior, the

nave is lighted by tall, stained-glass memorial windows in clusters of three; as in many churches built at the turn-of-the-century, the pews are arranged in a semi-circular pattern facing a raised platform. Largely unchanged over the years, the interior also retains a hand-painted canvas stage curtain by local artist W. P. Morton.

Across the street, the South Paris Fire House (1918) is a hip-roofed wooden structure displaying the only remaining "hose tower" in Oxford County. Once commonplace, most examples in Maine, unused for decades, have now been destroyed. Further south on Pine Street is the "Oak Acorn," a story-and-a-half hip-roofed Colonial Revival house (1910) that was the home of Mlle. Minnie Scalar, noted operatic diva and wife of Norway author and scientist C. A. Stephens. The house is typical of its period and locality and is notable for its large gabled dormers with windows in the Palladian manner. Scalar's later years were spent at the "Laboratory" at Norway Lake (see N-17); she and her well-known husband are buried in the terraced Riverside Cemetery, a short distance east of Market Square on Maple Street.



"Oak Acorn"

P-13. MARKET SQUARE

Route 26 at junction of Main and East Main streets

Once the heart of South Paris Village, the commercial district of "Market Square" (known as "Central Square" before the 1880s) developed at a point where the boundaries of four original lots cornered. By the mid-1780s, much of the immediate area was owned by Lemuel Jackson, Jr. (see P-2), a Paris Hill resident and town "founder" who had previously built saw and grist mills on nearby Stony Brook. Now idle, the town's major water power site, the falls of the



(l to r) Billings Block, Masonic Block, Bolster Store, "Andrews Nursing Home"

Little Androscoggin River, lies just down a hill from the square. Roads from the square lead west, north, and southeast to adjacent towns.

Reshaped by development and fire through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Market Square still contains a number of significant commercial and civic structures built in a variety of architectural styles and forms. West of Market Square, along Route 26, rampant commercial growth has resulted in a proliferation of "fast food architecture" in marked contrast with the more tightly-knit, traditionally-designed buildings of the square. In the preservation of the remaining structures here, local citizens will hopefully recognize how important "identity," formed over a long span of years, is to the well-being of the community as a whole.

One of the oldest buildings now standing in the square is the three-storied, hip-roofed Andrews Nursing Home on the northeast corner; it was built ca. 1820 as a two-story house for Elias Stowell, owner of most of the land at Market Square in the early nineteenth century. The village of South Paris was known for many years as "Stowell's Mills" (it was also called "Paris Cape" for the numerous Cape Ann, Massachusetts, natives who settled here). After James Deering raised the building to three stories in 1849, it was utilized as a hotel. Known as the Atlantic House and later as Andrews Hotel, the hostelry opened just at the time the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad began its runs from Portland to Montreal through South Paris Village. The structure once had a finish in Greek Revival style, including wide corner boards, columned porches, and a decorative roof balustrade.

To the left of the Andrews building is a well-preserved commercial structure in the Greek Revival style dating from 1852. Operated by N. Dayton Bolster in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the building was a prosperous general merchandise store, almost a department store, for the residents of South Paris. A large staircase at the center of the store's interior remains from that era.

The business continues today under the Bolster name. To the left of Bolster's is the old Masonic Block, built in 1867, but now sheathed in pressed metal and patterned shingles from the late nineteenth century. To its left, beyond an open space that until recently housed another gable-fronted commercial structure, is the Billings Block, constructed in 1895 in a Victorian commercial style. Designed by O. E. Moulton of Dover, New Hampshire, and built by Ethan Willis and Franklin Maxim of Paris, the substantial business block was opened the year the county seat moved from Paris Hill to South Paris. The building housed the offices and printshop of the *Oxford Democrat* newspaper from 1895 to 1933, when it merged with the *Norway Advertiser*.

Across Route 26 on the opposite corner is the massive brick Association Building, built in 1922 in a version of commercial classic style by the Paris Building Association. It replaced the substantial mansard-roofed Odd Fellows Block which was destroyed by fire the previous year. Once a popular center of social life at South Paris Village, the Association Block has stores at street level and a large hall above.

To the left of the Association Block is the David N. True Block, a wooden vernacular commercial building rebuilt from an older structure in the 1860s. A hall above was used for many years by the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The gable-roofed building was renovated by Frank A. Shurtleff in 1887 for use as a drug store, a function it continues to serve. Some of the shelves from this era, decorated in Colonial Revival swagging, are still in use at the rear of the store.



South Paris Public Library

Beyond the new Department of Agriculture building is the South Paris Public Library, a Colonial Revival structure built in 1926 that adheres strongly to classic Georgian and Federal style design motifs. The work of Portland architects John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens, the building, despite its small size,

conveys a sophisticated, monumental quality enhanced by its proximity to more modest vernacular style houses and business blocks. The brick walls set in Flemish bond are broken by multi-paned windows placed in blind arches. At the center of the symmetrical facade is the library's main entrance, composed of a small, decorative portico supported by slender wooden columns; over the door is a fine, semi-circular glass fan. Tall end-wall chimneys providing for two interior fireplaces flank the medium-pitched hip roof. Fund raising for a village library began in 1917 and culminated in January 1927 with the dedication of the present structure. Hung in the library is an intriguing topographical painting of a portion of South Paris in the late nineteenth century.



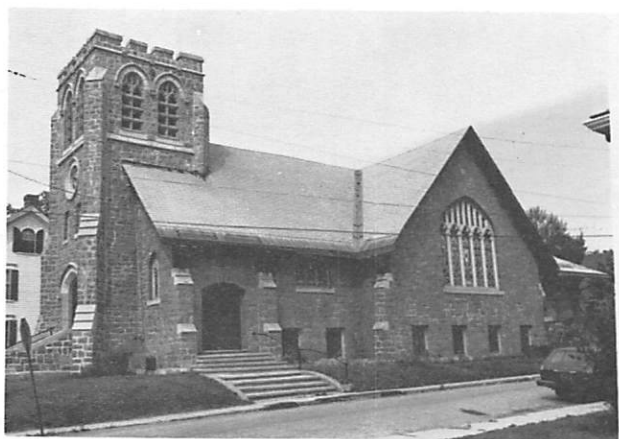
Pythian Block

Back towards the square proper, past several twentieth century commercial buildings, is a hip-roofed filling station at the corner of Main and Pine streets; an early type of building for this purpose, the structure dates from the 1920s. Across Pine Street is the three-story brick Pythian Block, a major structure from the turn-of-the-century that reflects the flavor of the Romanesque Revival style in its vertically emphatic facade dominated by an arcade-like series of round-arched windows. Now standing alone, its original first-floor storefronts replaced by an unsympathetic modern treatment, the Pythian Block once had an equally pretentious neighbor to the left in the three-story metal-sheathed Maxim Block which burned in the 1920s. Today, a false-fronted structure and the small New Maxim Block, with a character similar to that of the Association Block (see above), stand in its place. To the left is a small-scale Greek Revival commercial building dating from the 1850s; once a harness shop with lawyer's office above, it continues in a public capacity.

Beyond Barrows Street is the 1921 brick Old Fellows Building. In a space to the rear on the ground floor was the Strand, South Paris's motion picture theater. Soon

after its erection, the structure was purchased by the Masonic Lodge, which still utilizes the second story. The street front store spaces are now used as the Paris town offices. On the facade, it is possible to see the small panes of ridged glass, characteristic of 1920s commercial work, that diffuse the light let into the upper portions of the interior. Decorative details on the building have a Neoclassical flavor.

The center of Market Square is now a traffic island, sustaining a small plot of green edged with plantings. In 1868 the town erected an obelisk here in memory of Paris men who participated in the Civil War (this may well have been the first such monument in the county). Later, a bandstand, no longer standing, was added as well. A large elm shaded the spot in the 1890s and into this century. The obelisk was eventually moved to Moore Park, at the corner of Park and High streets.



P-14. DEERING MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

1910-1911. Corner of Main and Church streets

Designed by the Cleveland architectural firm of Badgley and Nicholas, the granite ashlar Deering Memorial Methodist Church takes a form derived from English parish churches of the "Perpendicular Gothic" period. Laid out on a cruciform plan with a square, crenellated tower, prominent wall buttresses, and pointed-arch, stained-glass windows, the building was constructed of granite brought by rail from a quarry near the Woodstock village of Bryant Pond. The well-executed structure was built largely through funds donated by South Paris native William Deering, a wealthy Chicago manufacturer of harvesting machinery. The church was dedicated in August 1911 and named in memory of Deering's parents, long-time members of an earlier Methodist church which once occupied the site. Crowded in on all sides by other village structures, this Neo-Gothic house of worship is one of western Maine's most important twentieth century churches.

West of the church is the Shurtleff House (ca. 1855), a substantial Italianate residence displaying bay and round-arch windows, and an elaborated cornice. Further west is the Arba Thayer House (ca. 1845-50), a fine Greek Revival structure which achieves a temple-like appearance due to the "stripped classic" effect of applied pilasters to the gabled street facade. A similar and better-preserved example is the Monroe House at Rumford Point Village (see R-9).



P-15. SOUTH PARIS BAPTIST CHURCH

1885 Park Street at High Street

This eclectic, century-old frame church combines forms and decorative devices from several Victorian styles in a stiff but elaborate composition. A Gothic tower, slimmed to a needle-like spire above the belfry, rises at one corner. The projecting gables on three sides of the church enforce the picture of interior space divided into nave and transept. Notwithstanding, the major interior space is actually covered by a tent-like hipped roof and illuminated by large stained-glass rose windows in the gables.

Built by local contractor Silas P. Maxim, the church is sheathed in vertical and horizontal clapboards and patterned shingles, all Queen Anne practices. The floral cut-out at the peak of the front gable and in the belfry, and brackets used on the interior, are similar to patterns used in more elaborate Eastlake structures in New England. The severe angularity and tautness of surface hint of the Stick style as well.

The South Paris Baptist Church's varied decoration, complex form, and siting (at the junction of two major streets, at the apex of a triangular park, and opposite the town's major Gothic Revival house) combine to make it one of the town's most fascinating and striking buildings. The church was begun as a sister church

to that at Paris Hill Village. Among its early benefactors was the Morton family, whose Paris Manufacturing Company (see P-18) moved from Paris Hill to South Paris in 1883.



P-16. HENRY W. MORTON HOUSE

1904. Park Street (Route 26)

Like its counterpart, the George Morton House on nearby Western Avenue (see P-19), the Henry W. Morton House was constructed at the turn-of-the-century in the then-popular Colonial Revival style. The asymmetrically-arranged, three-bay residence displays certain elements taken from earlier "period styles," most notably the Palladian motif in the centered roof dormer and the side-lighted entries on the first and second story levels of the facade. An open porch supported by thin wooden columns ends in a concave-roofed corner pavilion attached to its north end. The window and door entablatures have denticulation, as does that of the roof eaves.

Across Park Street, the Andres-Willis House (1898) is one of several local examples of the Stick style. Its walls exhibit the diagonal "stickwork" of the style which, like the Gothic Revival and the Queen Anne, is a free adaptation of Medieval English building tradition.

P-17. ELISHA F. STONE HOUSE

1854-1855. High Street at Gothic Street (NR)

The finest Gothic Revival house in Oxford County, this cross-gabled residence was built for Elisha F. Stone, postmaster at South Paris Village from 1862-1882.



The steeply-pitched roofs, carved bargeboards, board walls scored to imitate masonry, corner quoins, drip moldings, and oriel window are all elements of the style popularized in the 1840s and 1850s by the books of Andrew Jackson Downing, an ante-bellum horticulturalist and tastemaker. The wide first-floor windows with leaded glass tops are later additions, as is the porch in sympathetic style at the right front of the structure. Though the interior was modernized early in the twentieth century, several original doors of Gothic design remain.



Knight House

Two Capes from the first half of the nineteenth century, the Dunn House (next door) and the Knight House (across High Street) convey an accurate picture of South Paris's earliest framed homes. Across Gothic Street is the James Deering House, a substantial Greek Revival structure dating from 1856. It has an

asymmetrically-arranged facade and a one-story porch supported by square piers. Next door is the towered, Victorian Captain Horace N. Bolster House (1888); when built, its tall tower spire (now removed) was the tallest landmark in this part of the village. Further north, beyond several later buildings, is the Perley Ripley House, a Bungalow style residence of brick and wood built in 1913.



James Deering House



P-18. PARIS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

1886 and later. Western Avenue and Nichols Street

The oldest sections of this rambling wooden structure comprise one of the

largest nineteenth century mills extant in Oxford County. Built with functionalism as a key motive, the massive complex is nevertheless an important representative of the many wood-framed mills that once dotted the western Maine landscape. Fronting the tracks of the Grand Trunk (Canadian National) Railroad, the office section of the mill is the most interesting; it has a low-pitched gabled roof, a five-bayed facade, and a high false front. Most of the adjoining sections retain their clapboard wall covering and multi-paned windows.

Established in 1871 on the eastern edge of Paris Hill Village, the Paris Hill Manufacturing Company (one of the town's first steam-powered factories) became successful under the watchful eyes of managers Henry F. Morton and George B. Crockett in the production of sleds, carts, wagons, and children's carriages. Well known today as one of the country's oldest sled producers, the company began construction of the present buildings in 1886 following the destruction by fire of structures built three years previous; the company moved here from Paris Hill in the spring of 1884.

Further north, on the western side of Nichols Street, a row of Bungalow style dwellings dating to the 1920s remain as one of the most cohesive streetscapes in the town.



P-19. MORTON HOUSE

1889. Western Avenue

The Victorian design characteristics of the Morton House represent a transition linking the Gothic Revival with the later Queen Anne, in what is commonly called the Stick style. The steeply-pitched, cross-gabled roof, overhanging eaves with large supporting brackets, decorative trusses within the apex of the gables, patterned wall sheathing, and tall, square tower (round towers are most often

seen in the Queen Anne style) are all typical decorative details of the Stick style. Though highly popular in the West, the Stick style quickly passed from fashion in the Northeast in the early 1890s and was replaced by the far more widespread and certainly more versatile Queen Anne.

Dating from 1901 and providing a marked contrast to the Morton House in design, the George Morton House stands a short distance away on a commanding hillside site. Built in the Colonial Revival style, the house has a balustraded entrance porch, Palladian window, and heavily modillioned cornice surrounding its broad hipped roof. Further south, nearer the county buildings (see P-20) is the Hayden-Cummings House (ca. 1895), a vernacular Queen Anne style residence with an inset porch and a large multi-windowed dormer on the street facade.

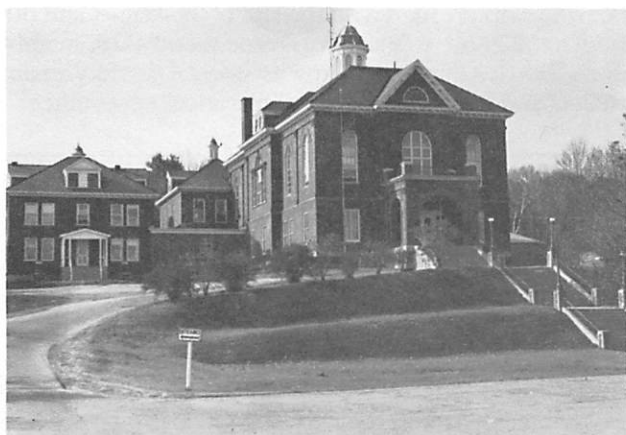


Hayden-Cummings House

P-20. OXFORD COUNTY BUILDINGS

1895-1896. Western Avenue

With the transfer of official records from Paris Hill to South Paris in late December of 1895, the latter village became the new seat of county government, ending a historic era begun in 1805 when Paris Hill Village was chosen as the site for the first county buildings. The new Oxford County complex, a combination of late Victorian and Colonial Revival architectural themes, was designed by Lewiston, Maine, architect George M. Coombs and built under the direction of Joseph Philbrook, a Lisbon, Maine, contractor. Coombs was responsible for the Franklin County Courthouse, built ten years earlier in Farmington, and other Oxford County buildings, including Norway Hall (now destroyed) on Norway Village's Main Street, and the Cole Block (1891; see B-11) at Bethel Hill Village. The self-conscious late nineteenth century design for the county's new structures



provided court facilities, space for a probate office and registry of deeds, a jail and jailor's house, and a brick stable (now destroyed). All were constructed in a carefully arranged ensemble on a hillside site above the railroad station (a large freight shed was moved to provide a better view of the courthouse from the station platform).

The county buildings have a monumental quality rare in Oxford County. The courthouse is a three-and-a-half story brick building trimmed with stone and topped by a bracketed cornice, hipped roof, and domed cupola. The upper level of the roof was once edged with a balustrade.

The two-and-a-half story jail block, with jailor's house at the front, stands to the left of the courthouse. A two-and-a-half story office wing to the rear of the courthouse was added in later years in a similar style. The original Colonial Revival porch of the jailor's house has been replaced by a modern adaptation.

Coombs' original design for the complex was distinctly more in the Colonial Revival style than the buildings as executed. Most altered were the design of the cupola, changed from a multi-columned Federal model to the combination of Italianate and Neo-Baroque forms as built, and the design of the courthouse entrance porch. Coombs designed the porch in a delicate, multi-columned, Federal manner. This was rejected in favor of the existing cast stone and brick entrance which carries a certain Romanesque Revival spirit. It leads, however, to a doorway framed in overscaled sidelights and transom with Federal style tracery.

Inside, registry and probate offices flank the corridor running through the building at the second story entrance level. Staircases at either end lead to offices below and court facilities above. The large courtroom, with a gallery at the rear, is lit on two sides by Palladian windows. At the center of the ceiling is a somewhat underscaled shallow dome. A large mural, depicting "the Code of Justinian being brought before the emperor," probably painted by Harry H. Cochrane, decorates the wall behind the judge's bench.

At the right and to the rear of the site are additional facilities built in later years:

the district court building, erected on the site of the stable, and the new Oxford County Jail, built in 1979-80 to designs of Deane Woodward, an Auburn architect.

In the Jailor's House, the Paris Cape Historical Society maintains a room displaying artifacts and documents of local historical importance.



P-21. GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD STATION

1888-1889. Main Street and Western Avenue

The only extant railroad depot on the Grand Trunk (Canadian National) line in Oxford County, this brick station replaced the "old brown depot" which had been in use from the time of the first locomotive's arrival at South Paris Village on January 1, 1850. Victorian in character and rectangular in form, the solidly-built structure displays ornamental brickwork and a roof with widely-overhanging eaves and clipped-gable ends. The large wooden brackets supporting the roof are a distinctive feature and are similar to those seen on the few Maine structures built in the Stick style between ca. 1870 and ca. 1890.

Known as "Canada's winter road to the sea," the Grand Trunk Railway was chartered as the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad in 1846, and construction was immediately begun. On July 18, 1853 the first "through-train" passed between Portland and Montreal. Financially troubled from the beginning, the line was merged with the Grand Trunk only a few weeks later. In 1923 the line was absorbed into the huge Canadian National Railways system, though service through Oxford County and the rest of Maine continued with relatively few changes. Still used today for the hauling of freight, the railroad ended regular passenger service in 1962, with special summer weekend trains between Portland and Montreal curtailed six years later.

Other Grand Trunk stations, all now destroyed, once stood in the Oxford County towns of Oxford, West Paris, Woodstock, Greenwood, Bethel, and Gilead.

This virtually unaltered example, the finest ever built on this particular line in western Maine, remains as a valuable reminder of the historic importance of rail transportation in the county's past.



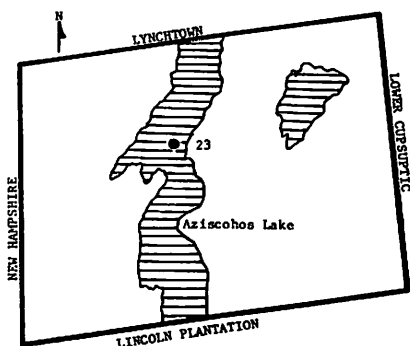
P-22. EXHIBITION HALL

ca. 1870 and later. Main Street near Norway town line

Now used for storage by School Administrative District #17, this large T-shaped vernacular structure was the principal exhibit building of the old Oxford County Fairgrounds, which once filled the corner plot where the Oxford Hills High School (1964) now stands. A vast, barn-like building which was rebuilt with a wing towards Norway following a fire in the 1880s, the Exhibition Hall's sole decoration consists of the subtle Victorian enframement of its tall, multi-paned windows. The wing towards South Paris, greater in depth than that towards the right and with a slightly different roof pitch, was added early in this century. Until recently, the major doors of the structure had the same enframement as the windows, but this was carelessly discarded when modern garage doors were installed. Grand in scale, clear and striking in plan, the Exhibition Hall is a local landmark and an important example of Oxford County's nineteenth century vernacular architecture.

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PARKERTOWN



INTRODUCTION

Parkertown lies on the New Hampshire border north of Lincoln Plantation and consists of forest covered mountains surrounding the man-made Azischohos Lake. The area was first explored by white settlers early in the nineteenth century but has remained a primitive area utilized for outdoor recreation and timber harvesting.

P-23. "VAIL SITE"

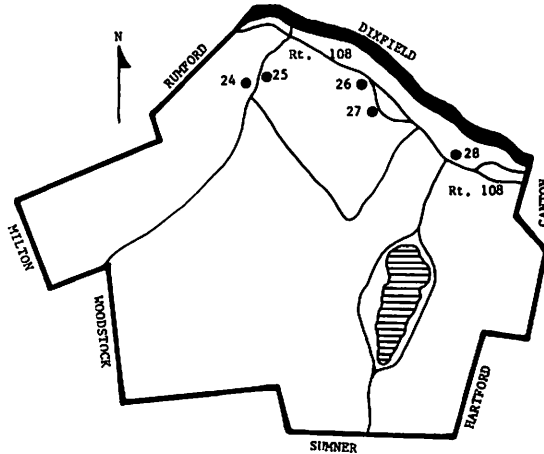
Prehistoric. Azischohos Lake north of Route 16 (NR)

The only prehistoric locality in Oxford County currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Vail Site lies beneath the waters of Azischohos Lake in the northern reaches of western Maine. Dated to some 11,000 years of age, the site occupies a gentle slope above the former Magalloway River floodplain, exposed only infrequently when the man-made lake is drained through Azischohos Dam (1909-11).

Excavated under the auspices of the Maine State Museum and the Buffalo Museum of Science, the Vail Site includes remnants of fireplaces, food storage shelters, a killing grounds, and the possible location of huts or tents as indicated by oval distributions of stone tools. Artifacts found have ranged from fluted spearpoints from the so-called killing ground, to stone tools and flakes from the hut site.

The significance of the Vail Site lies in its depiction of a short occupation Paleo-Indian site, one which may have been seasonal in nature. Though other Indian sites in Oxford County are known (most notably those at Canton, Bethel, and Fryeburg), this remote example remains the oldest and least disturbed by modern intrusions.

PERU



INTRODUCTION

Lying in the eastern part of Oxford County, Peru was originally known as "Township Number One," a name it held until incorporation in 1821. Between 1789 and 1796, the town was divided and purchased by William Wedgery of New Gloucester, Daniel Lunt of Falmouth, John Fox of Portland, and three men from Middleborough, Massachusetts. Merrill Knight of Falmouth, Maine, cleared the first farmstead in Peru in the summer of 1794, and settlement along the Androscoggin increased rapidly thereafter. In 1812, Township Number One was organized under a plantation system of government and for several years went by the name of "Partridgetown." At incorporation, the town took the name of a South American country recently liberated from Spanish rule.

Like many of its neighboring towns, Peru was largely dependent on small-scale agriculture during much of the nineteenth century. Within the confines of its three small villages, West Peru, Peru Center, and East Peru, numerous family-operated water-powered mills long answered the local need for manufactured goods. Not until 1892, when the Portland and Rumford Falls Railroad was extended north from Canton through Peru, did large-scale production and expanded industry become possible. The massive brick factory of the Diamond National Corporation (1930-33), a wood products firm near the Mexico-Peru Androscoggin Bridge, dominates local manufacturing today. Peru's current economy is also heavily oriented towards the paper-making center at Rumford Falls, a few miles upriver.

Peru's nineteenth century "built environment" has been strongly affected by twentieth century trends in transportation and commercial activity. A main result

has been the loss of identity experienced by those residing in the older village clusters, which are now surrounded by new construction occupying former open space.

Peru's 1880 population numbered 825 people. The 1980 total of nearly 1,600 individuals does not include the several hundred who reside in seasonal homes in the Worthley Pond area near East Peru.



P-24. WEST PERU GRANGE HALL ("Bolster Store")

ca. 1842, 1908. Off Route 108 at West Peru Village

West Peru began its existence under the ownership of Levi Ludden, who came from the town of Turner around 1817 and purchased a square mile of land encompassing all of the present village. By 1822 Josiah Curtis had erected a grist mill here, and construction of houses and several small shops soon followed.

Built of locally manufactured brick around 1842, the former West Peru Grange Hall is one of the most substantial mid-nineteenth century structures remaining in this small hamlet. Originally built as a store, it was occupied by merchant Lyman Bolster until 1866, when he moved to Bryant Pond Village in Woodstock. From 1886 to 1898 the Rockemeka Grange (organized at Peru Center in 1875) met in the large hall above the store. Around 1902, the structure was purchased by the newly-formed West Peru Grange (disbanded in 1967), which added a wooden extension to the rear six years later. Standing essentially as rebuilt during this period, the Grange Hall displays segmental-arched windows and textured bands of shingles in its gable pediment. The columned porch may also date from around 1908.

West of the Grange Hall are numerous vernacular Victorian houses of local interest.



P-25. WEST PERU BAPTIST CHURCH

1885. Off Route 108 at West Peru Village

This modest village landmark is a fine example of a rural Victorian church which retains much of its original character. The church's most interesting features are the pointed-arch windows, decorative trusses in the gable end, and open belfry with openings of Moorish influence. The exterior trim of the church was originally a dark color, which did much to emphasize the strongly three-dimensional effect of the decorative detailing.

To the west is the Benson-White House (ca. 1835), one of the oldest Capes of wood extant at West Peru. The high-posted structure has a steeply-pitched gable roof, five bayed facade, transomed entry, and center chimney interior arrangement. At the rear of the property, beyond an attached barn, stood the village's second grist mill, erected in the late 1830s by Timothy Ludden.

East of the church is Union Hall (1860 and later), a two-and-a-half story brick schoolhouse with a distinctive multi-paned triangular window in the gable pediment. Used until 1936, when a new school was built nearby, Union Hall has been converted to residential use. Further east is a row of two-story Bungalow style double-houses built around 1925. On a hillside beyond is a slightly modified brick Cape dating to the 1840s.

P-26. MERRILL KNIGHT HOUSE

1810. Off Route 108 at Peru Center Village

Local tradition states that in 1790, Merrill Knight of Falmouth, Maine, shared in

the purchase of some 4,800 acres at "Township Number 1" with Daniel Lunt, also of Falmouth. In any case, during the summer of 1794, Knight followed an ancient Indian trail along the Androscoggin to Peru Center, where he felled trees and cleared the town's first farmstead.

Preceded by two log houses, the present Knight House consists of an almost square, high-posted Cape which follows a two-room-deep plan. Dating to 1810, the house was the site of plantation meetings from 1812 to 1818 when the school at "Town House Hill" nearby was utilized. Though large-paned sash and smaller chimneys have been introduced, the Knight House remains an important reminder of Peru's formative years.

Early in the nineteenth century, Knight donated land for the town's first cemetery, which still exists near the river to the east. He also established a river ferry here which, until 1828, connected towns north and east of the Androscoggin with Sumner, Hartford, and the main route to the County Courthouse at Paris Hill.

A mile to the north is the Walker-Vaughn House (ca. 1830), a much-altered Cape with a doorway whose semi-circular fan pierces the entablature above. South of the Knight House is the Orville Robinson House (1878), a two-and-a-half story rural residence exhibiting Italianate decorative features.



P-27. TOWN HALL (Center Schoolhouse)

1896. Off Route 108 at Peru Center Village

Important for its long associations with Peru's educational and political history, the Town Hall/Center Schoolhouse is a plain two-and-a-half story frame structure which represents a common building type seen throughout Oxford County. Before the construction of the present meeting place, yearly town gatherings were held in various public places, most often in district schoolhouses. From

1812 to 1818, the plantation meetings took place at the nearby Merrill Knight House (see P-26). Plantation and town meetings were held between 1818 and 1842 in the town's first schoolhouse, built a short distance away on "Town House Hill" in 1817. The Center School, located on the first floor of the 1896 Town Hall, was closed in 1938.

To the south is the Rockemeka Grange Hall, a rectangular two-story hip-roofed structure erected in 1904. Beyond is the Turner-Hall House (ca. 1840), a simple farmstead showing Greek Revival influence and fronted by a split granite retaining wall. Peru Center's commercial and industrial beginnings date to around 1810 when James Lunt erected a combination saw and grist mill on the stream nearby. By 1819, George W. Lunt had opened the first store at this riverside location.



P-28. IRA WORMELL FARMSTEAD

ca. 1860 and earlier. Route 108 at East Peru Village

Beyond its modest architectural interest, this village farmstead is significant for its historic associations with one of Peru's most prominent early families. The first settler in the immediate vicinity was Benjamin Wormell, who constructed the first grist mill on the stream below around 1810. In 1813, he was chosen one of the new plantation's selectmen and assessors and took part in dividing the town into school districts in 1818. At the time his son, Ira Wormell, erected what was probably considered the most fashionable residence in the village, the cluster of small mills, shops, and houses had long been known as "Wormell's Mills."

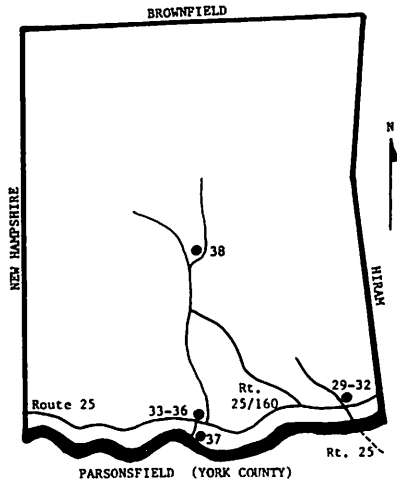
A prosperous farmer and successful businessman, Ira Wormell built his vernacular Italianate residence on the site of an earlier house. The three-bayed structure displays wide-flaring eaves, first story bay windows, and a double-doored entry; it stands beside a large gable-roofed barn which may date to around

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1830. Though modified with the passage of time, the farmstead still conveys something of its former distinction.

To the south is the Charles S. Luce Store, an important village commercial landmark built around 1902.

PORTER



INTRODUCTION

The southern Oxford County town of Porter, incorporated in 1807 and named for Doctor Aaron Porter of Biddeford, was established as the "Plantation of Porterfield" in 1802. The land now comprising most of the township was part of two land grants, one made in 1788 to Timothy Cutler which encompassed the northern part of the town and parts of western Brownfield, and another made in 1793 which included land north of the Ossipee River granted to several prominent Maine timber barons, including Colonel Thomas Cutts of Saco. Not surprisingly, much of Porter's early economic success was derived from the cutting of large stands of pine timber, which were then floated down the Ossipee and Saco rivers to coastal shipyards.

The first actual settlement in this mainly-agricultural town was made in 1781 about a mile north of present-day Porter Village by Meshach Libby of Pittsfield, New Hampshire. Under an earlier settlement proposal (one which later "proprietors" continued to recognize) Libby and the few others who came to Porter before January 1784 were to receive one hundred acres of land each from the government, not an unattractive offer at a time when burgeoning coastal populations were spreading inland. Of the first houses, Thomas Moulton, author of the town's first history (1879) stated, "The walls were made of nicely hewn pine timber, locked together at the corners." Settlement progressed in the last years of the eighteenth century with the first saw and grist mills being erected in the early 1790s. Though farmsteads rose in most areas after the town's incorporation, the earliest hamlet formed around the Ossipee River crossing at

present-day Porter Village. Some years later this cluster of modest homes and businesses was superseded in size and importance by Kezar Falls Village, located several miles further downstream on the Ossipee. As soon as vast stretches of forest could be cleared, agriculture became the most important mainstay, though the woolen industry at Kezar Falls was of major economic importance during the late nineteenth century.

The numerous remnants of once-prosperous farmsteads which now dot Porter hillsides provide an interesting contrast with several buildings of major architectural significance for Maine. The most important town structure is undoubtedly the "Old Meeting House" erected north of Porter Village between 1818 and 1824 by followers of the Reverend Jeremiah Bullock. Its stark interior and eighteenth century lines make it a unique survivor in western Maine. Also of high architectural interest are the state's longest covered bridge and the Gothic-Stick style Riverside Methodist Church at Kezar Falls. The Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society, organized in 1946 and incorporated in 1953, is Oxford County's oldest, though a short-lived historical group was formed at Fryeburg in 1920.

The population of the town of Porter was 1,095 in 1880. One hundred years later, many of its 1,222 residents still reside in or near either Porter or Kezar Falls villages.

P-29. KEZAR FALLS VILLAGE

Routes 25 and 160

The section of Kezar Falls Village lying north of the Ossipee River in the town of Porter is comprised mainly of residential structures, the majority of the commercial and civic buildings being located on the southern, town of Parsonsfield, side of the river. Although settled just prior to 1810 by Bartholomew Gould of Wells, Maine, the north side could claim only thirteen houses, two "shops," one store, one school, and one church by 1858; not until 1820 were frame buildings raised, there being no saw mill until one was constructed in adjacent South Hiram Village (physically an extension of Kezar Falls Village) by William Stanley, second to settle in the immediate area.

With the construction in 1830 of a road from Freedom, New Hampshire, through Porter and on to Hiram, Kezar Falls, named for early Parsonsfield hunter and trapper George Kezar, began to take advantage of the plentiful water power available from the Ossipee River. Settled later than the western hamlet of Porter Village, Kezar Falls nevertheless provided an alternative site for development in the southeast corner of Porter. In 1833 the first bridge was constructed over the Ossipee at this location (replaced in 1869 with a two-span covered type no longer standing), and in 1844, the several dams here were "improved" for use mainly by lumber-producing establishments. By 1881, the Kezar Falls Woolen Company, eventually the largest industry at the village, had built a multi-storied frame structure with monitor roof on the Parsonsfield side of the river. Both towns (Parsonsfield and Porter) witnessed increasing prosperity in the nineteenth

century, exemplified by the founding of *The Oxford County Record* at Kezar Falls in 1883. As a result of economic cooperation and improved means of transportation, the general ambiance that is modern-day Kezar Falls was created.

While it can be said that no structure probably predates 1840, Kezar Falls abounds in interesting mid-to-late nineteenth century structures, many of which exhibit vernacular versions of the Greek Revival and Mansard styles; the best examples are located along Main Street (Route 160) and near the intersection of Routes 25 and 160 at the north end of the Ossipee River bridge. Several of the most outstanding are herein treated individually.



P-30. PORTER SCHOOLHOUSE

1889. Main Street at Kezar Falls

This former town high school building is one of the few extant late Victorian wooden schoolhouses in Oxford County. Its design, though on a more modest scale, is not unlike the Norway Elementary School at Norway Village (see N-28).

Porter's arrangement of "district" schools was similar to those of other county towns, but with improvements in transportation, the small one-story structures built during the first half of the nineteenth century slowly disappeared. In 1925, all students above the fifth grade were relocated to Kezar Falls, Porter's largest village; four years later, only one of Porter's original thirteen district schools remained in use, but by 1948, it too had closed its doors. In 1919, when a new high school was built further east on Main Street (replaced in the 1960s by the Sacopee Valley High School at nearby South Hiram), this towered structure became a primary school, which purpose it served until Porter joined the local school administrative district (S.A.D. 55) in 1966.

The two-and-a-half story hip-roofed frame school has clapboard-covered walls and a symmetrical placement of facade window openings. The angularity of the

first story pedimented entrance porch, the large third story wall gable, and the tall pyramidal-roofed belfry atop the roof contrasts with the structure's simple rectangular form. Now threatened by disuse, this important local landmark is a valuable reminder of the county's once-numerous large wooden school buildings.

A short distance east on Main Street is a vernacular house, now the headquarters of the Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society, organized in 1946 and incorporated in 1953.



P-31. PORTER TOWN OFFICE

ca. 1885-90. Main Street at Kezar Falls

Originally built as a millinery shop for Miss Florence Perkins, a well-known village seamstress, this vernacular Queen Anne commercial structure housing the municipal offices for the town of Porter is a delightful late Victorian composition holding a corner where the road from the Ossipee River bridge meets Main Street. Retaining almost all of its original decorative detail, the building has a symmetrically-arranged facade with two-sided projecting bays; the upper sash in the facade windows, including that in the entrance door, has a border of small rectangular colored glass panels. The high false front is broken by a projecting porch roof which covers the angular window arrangement below; the roof is supported by ornate, scroll-like brackets with pendants. This bracketed effect is repeated at each side of the false front where the building's clapboarded walls meet the roof eaves. As in the case of the Pike or "Blue Store" on Norway's Main Street (see N-28), the Porter Town Office is a remarkably intact late nineteenth century

commercial structure which expresses local tastes in eclectic Victorian architecture. In adapting to new uses, the building also succeeds well.



P-32. RIVERSIDE METHODIST CHURCH

1883. Junction of Routes 25 and 160 at Kezar Falls

Designed by Portland architect Charles H. Kimball and completed in 1883, this handsome wooden church overlooking a busy intersection near the Ossipee River combines both Gothic Revival and Stick style architectural elements into an impressive and attractive composition. The two-and-a-half story structure with tall corner tower remains essentially as built except for the addition of a classroom wing to the west and the replacement of the original second story etched-glass nave windows with large stained-glass types.

The first Methodist services held in the town of Porter were in 1833, when a church was formed as part of the "Baldwin Circuit." Soon after 1839, when Porter became a "separate charge," a large gable-roofed meetinghouse with tall pointed-arch windows was erected near where the present church stands; this earlier structure still exists, albeit in much-altered form as the local fire department headquarters a short distance to the east.

The present Methodist Church, architecturally the most distinctive building in the Porter section of Kezar Falls Village, is a later, less elaborate version of the Church of the New Jerusalem (1878-79; see F-23) at Fryeburg, also designed by Kimball. In the Fryeburg building, Kimball more strictly adhered to an accurate interpretation of Gothic and Stick style elements; the graceful pointed-arch

window hoods at Fryeburg become more gable-like here, and the external "stick" bracing, seen on the earlier building, now takes the form of mere surface molding. Nevertheless, the Porter church, with its decorative and structural moldings painted a dark color against the lighter clapboard wall surface, created a most impressive composition in its original form. Much of this quality, however, has been lost due to the covering of moldings by wall surface paint colors, a fate additionally suffered by the Fryeburg church and by countless Victorian structures throughout the county.



P-33. EBENEZER BLAZO HOUSE

ca. 1840 and earlier. Routes 25 and 160 at Porter Village

This vernacular Greek Revival style house is an important local example of a connected village home consisting of main house, ell, shed, and barn. The tall two-and-a-half story house is essentially the same size as the barn, though its fenestration differs slightly. Interestingly, the story-and-a-half three-bay ell is probably one of the oldest buildings in the town of Porter, thought it, too, has been remodeled in the Greek Revival mode.

The Blazo House was the nineteenth century home of Ebenezer Blazo, long the postmaster for Porter Village. Established under the name "Porter's Bridge" in 1822, the post office was located for many years in a small story-and-a-half frame structure (since razed) which was built in 1806 and stood just west of Blazo's home. In 1835, while under Blazo's management, the name of this southernmost post office in Oxford County was changed to "Porter," perhaps to distinguish it from the new village of Kezar Falls which had just completed its first bridge across the Ossipee. The Blazo House, a relatively undistinguished but well-preserved example of the Greek Revival side-hall type house, remained in the Blazo family well into the twentieth century.



P-34. UNION CHURCH

1909. Routes 25 and 160 at Porter Village

This modest story-and-a-half vernacular Queen Anne structure is typical in its form and styling to numerous extant churches raised in sparsely-settled regions of the county from the 1880s to around 1910. While the most common forms of this type place the bell tower to one side of the main block (see H-33, L-2, and N-2), the Porter Union Church features a pagoda-like three-stage tower which functions as an entrance pavilion. The textured surfaces of the tower, which are continued in the flaring, shingled band that surrounds the building just above the tall, narrow window openings, are characteristic Queen Anne style decorative features. The small belfry with louvered openings is capped with a pyramidal roof and fine weathervane.

The Union Church Society was incorporated in December of 1909 and for a number of years played an active role in the life of Porter Village. Although there was never any settled minister, preachers from the surrounding communities, notably larger Kezar Falls Village to the east, occupied the pulpit. A church club, "The Union Workers," has maintained the fanciful structure during times of low church membership.

P-35. WILLIAM STANLEY HOUSE

ca. 1810-20, ca. 1860 and later. Routes 25 and 160 at Porter Village

During the mid-nineteenth century, at the time the several revival styles were at their peak of popularity, numerous structures built earlier in the century went through an architectural transformation, one which often left the design or detail changed in a profound way. A good example of this metamorphosis is the William Stanley House at Porter Village.



In form, the Stanley House is a symmetrically-arranged five-bay type of very tall proportions. Raised in the early years of the nineteenth century as a Federal style house with twelve-over-twelve paned windows and a very sophisticated doorway with semi-elliptical fan, sidelights, flat cornice, and framing pilasters, the house underwent major alterations around 1860, the most obvious being the addition of wide Greek Revival moldings and paired cornice brackets similar to those found on recently-introduced Italianate houses in Maine. Evidence also indicates that the roof was probably raised, the pitch increased, and the three pilastered gable dormers added. Photographic evidence from around 1875 shows the Stanley House with accompanying barns, sheds, and distinctive wooden fencing, all of which gave the property the appeal of a gentleman's estate. Indeed, at the time probably no other house in the Porter area was as convincingly pretentious as was this substantial residence. Sometime around the turn-of-the-century, when the house was used as a hotel, much of the more elaborate decorative work was removed, including the original doorway and the multi-paned windows on the first and second stories. Nevertheless, this home of one-time postmaster, Civil War veteran, and large landholder William Stanley still conveys a sense of dignity and vitality not seen in many Ossipee valley structures.

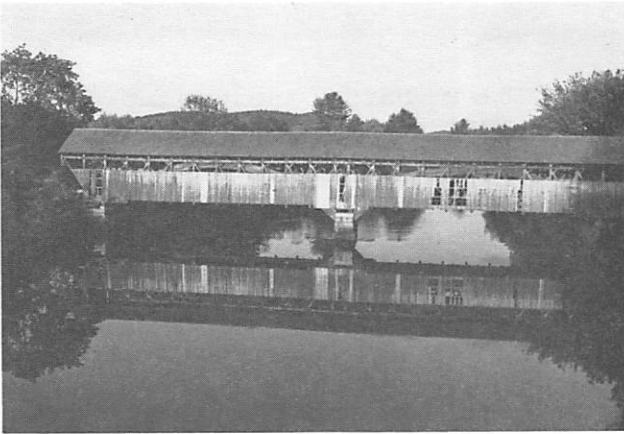
P-36. STANLEY-GOODWIN HOUSE

ca. 1810-20. Off Routes 25 and 160 at Porter Village

This low-posted five-bay center-chimneyed Cape with attached ell, considering the somewhat "neglected" appearance of modern-day Porter Village, is an interesting survival from the early years of the town's existence. Built from timbers sawn in a mill constructed on a nearby stream in 1799, this relatively unaltered structure conveys, better than most remaining Porter buildings of its age and style, the typical home of one of the town's first settlers. Behind and to one



side of the house is a large vertically-sheathed barn with attached shed, making this an unusually complete early nineteenth century village farmstead.



P-37. PORTER-PARSONSFIELD BRIDGE

1876. Route 160 over Ossipee River (NR)

This two-span wooden covered bridge is one of five still standing in Oxford County and, with the recent destruction of the Morse Bridge at Bangor, is Maine's longest example of the type. Spanning the Ossipee River at one hundred and fifty-two feet, the Porter-Parsonsfeld Bridge stands at the site of two earlier "pier-type" bridges built in 1798-1800 and in 1808. The present bridge is of

Paddleford truss construction, a framing system designed and developed earlier in the century by Peter Paddleford of Conway, New Hampshire. Strengthened by "laminated" wooden arches and now closed to traffic (which crosses over a new bridge upstream), this valuable example of nineteenth century engineering expertise is one of Oxford County's most important structural landmarks.



P-38. "OLD MEETING HOUSE"

1818-24. Off Route 25, north of Porter Village (NR)

Oxford County contains a number of structures that, when raised, reflected building types or architectural modes long-abandoned in the more progressive, urban centers of New England. The most important hold-over from earlier architectural forms that appears in this portion of western Maine is the meetinghouse, as distinct from the church form with its long, nave-like hall. The last of the meetinghouse-type structures to be built in Maine, and the only example extant in Oxford County, is Porter's "Old Meeting House," begun in 1818 and completed in 1824.

Like other surviving Maine examples, most of which date from the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the Porter meetinghouse has exposed interior framing and simple, unadorned clapboarded exterior walls. Likewise, other standard meetinghouse features, such as an open interior with three-sided gallery, box pews, and high pulpit (in this case, a restoration carried out in 1969) are all to be found in this extremely late example.

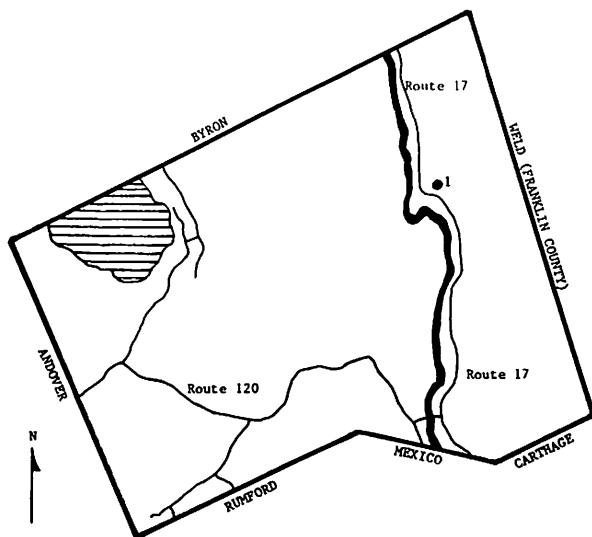
The meetinghouse at Porter began under the inspiration of Baptist clergyman Jeremiah Bullock, who settled in the nearby town of Limington in 1817 and soon established an active group of Free Will Baptists better known as "Bullockites." Probably due to lack of funds, however, the building was taken over for town

meetings soon after construction started, though the followers of the Reverend Bullock were the only denomination to be actively associated with the structure.

The meetinghouse's facade and side walls are of four bays with windows of twelve-over-twelve lights on the first floor and twelve-over-eight lights on the second. The rear wall, though similar in arrangement, also contains a well-executed multi-paned round-arch window behind the "high pulpit" at the center of the wall. The south-facing entrance facade has two pilastered doorways with transom lights and flat entablatures with projecting cornice. In a remarkable state of preservation and almost entirely original, the "Old Meeting House" is an architectural rarity of high national significance.

Across the road from the meetinghouse, the Porter Cattle Pound (ca. 1807) has been restored by the Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society. Used for decades to hold stray or trespassing domestic animals, the pound is the finest of its type remaining in Oxford County.

ROXBURY



INTRODUCTION

Named for an older Massachusetts town from which many of its early settlers had come, Roxbury is a rural community whose early nineteenth century founders saw the local potential for agriculture and lumbering. Known as "Township Number Seven" before its incorporation in 1835, the town lies in a mountainous region where the rock-strewn Swift River cuts a path from north to south. One of the earliest to clear a farmstead here was Francis Porter, a former Concord, New Hampshire, resident who arrived in 1809. He was soon followed by members of the Taylor, Walker, Fox, and Philbrick families, all of whom cultivated hillside farms and built modest homes, few of which survive today. By 1840, five years after incorporation, thirty-eight families resided within the town.

Like its neighboring town of Byron to the north, Roxbury remained highly dependent on small family-operated farms and a few water-powered mills throughout much of the nineteenth century. In 1895, construction of the Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad (later the "Rangeley Division of the Maine Central Railroad") brought a period of modest commercial and industrial development that ended when the line was destroyed by flood waters in 1936. Much of Roxbury's twentieth century growth and economic stability has been directly influenced by the paper-making center at Rumford Falls, where the Swift River joins the Androscoggin. Today, a large part of the town's population is

seasonal, with a major summer colony established at Ellis Pond ("Roxbury Pond") in the community's northwest corner.

In 1880, Roxbury contained 175 residents; a century later the number had increased to 373.



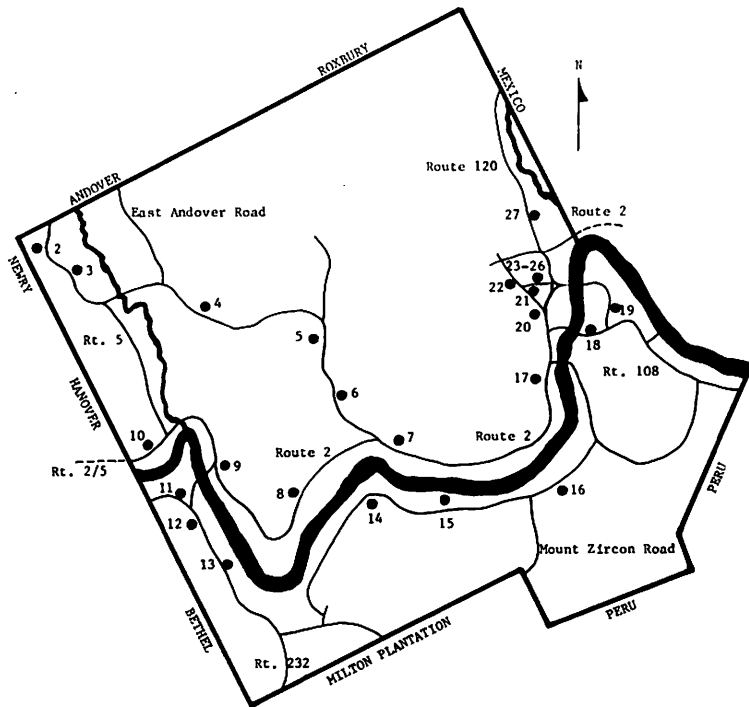
R-1. JOHN REED HOUSE

ca. 1845 and later. Route 17

This wide-gabled house built in the 1840s and added to later in the nineteenth century was the home of John Reed, Roxbury's first postmaster in 1849. A former Freeport, Maine, resident, Reed chose an elevated site above the Swift River at the southern edge of Roxbury Village to construct his residence, one of the least altered structures of its period in the town. Like the Green-Nutting House at Otisfield (see O-16) and the George W. Grover House at Bethel (see B-22), the Reed House is a local interpretation of popular Greek Revival forms. Its exterior decoration is limited to paneled corner pilasters which support a modest entablature; the main block retains many of its original six-over-six paned sash. The interior features exposed corner posts and Greek Revival door and window moldings. Adjacent to the house are several outbuildings, including a massive New England barn and a hip-roofed storage building with cupola.

Off Route 17, north of the Reed House, is a mansard-roofed house dating to around 1900.

RUMFORD



INTRODUCTION

One of the state's largest industrial centers, Rumford is a northern Oxford County town whose architectural heritage ranges from simple early nineteenth century Capes to impressive Beaux Arts commercial structures. Like several county townships, Rumford has its origins in an eighteenth century boundary dispute between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, one which ultimately caused the town's naming and greatly influenced its earliest settlement patterns.

In 1725, a grant of land called "Pennacook" (after an Indian tribe in the vicinity) at present-day Concord, New Hampshire, was made by Massachusetts, the Commonwealth then claiming all land north to the Merrimac River's source at Lake Winnepesaukee. Two years later, New Hampshire granted a township ("Bow") at the same location, but to a different group of settlers. In 1733, Pennacook was incorporated as "Rumford," after the town in England by the same name. Not until 1765 were the disputed state boundaries finally resolved, leaving the Massachusetts-granted lands under New Hampshire's jurisdiction. To finalize

local quarrels over property rights, the area of Bow and Rumford was re-established as "Concord." Almost immediately, the proprietors of Rumford (formerly Pennacook) petitioned Massachusetts for a grant in the District of Maine, and a tract of land on both sides of the Androscoggin was released to them in 1774. Called "New Pennacook," the settlement was organized as a plantation in 1795 and incorporated as "Rumford" (after the former New Hampshire lands) in 1800.

Actual settlement of Rumford commenced the year of its granting, when Jonathan Keyes of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, cleared a farmstead near the present village of Rumford Corner. Keyes was soon followed by members of the Segar, Moor, Elliot, Abbott, and Walker families, many of whom had strong connections with the "parent town" of Concord, New Hampshire. Log houses were erected previous to 1788, when the first saw and grist mills were in full operation on the Concord River in the southwest corner of the town.

During much of the nineteenth century, Rumford experienced the same modest prosperity shared by other agricultural and lumbering communities in the county. In 1882, the first purchases of land around the "Great Falls," near the town's eastern border, signaled a series of events that would create the new "town" of Rumford Falls as a paper-making industrial complex. Under the guidance of paper baron Hugh J. Chisholm, Rumford's character was transformed almost overnight from a docile farming community into a "city-in-the-wilderness."

Rumford's built environment, as shaped by two centuries of development, has also been influenced by many of the town's most notable residents. Peter C. Virgin became the town's first lawyer and helped establish the state constitution at Portland in 1819. Representing the typical "nineteenth century man," Jonathan Adams Bartlett became a successful artist, cabinetmaker, and housewright. Waldo Pettengill, a farmer, selectman, and civil engineer, was responsible for much of the town's later industrial boom town development. And Hugh J. Chisholm, an industrialist who captured the power of the great cataract on the Androscoggin, brought Rumford Falls into the forefront as one of Maine's most important paper-making centers.

Though Rumford's important historic architecture spans a wide time frame and a great variety of styles and types, an awareness of the built environment's place in the town's future has yet to be well developed. And while it is a matter of opinion as to whether the town has lived up to the potential represented by Rumford Falls' turn-of-the-century optimism, the existence of significant architecture there provides a rare chance at documenting one of New England's last "frontier towns." The "Greater Rumford Area Historical Society," formed in 1970, has taken the first steps toward recording the town's most valuable historic resources.

Composed of the villages of Rumford Corner, Rumford Point, and Rumford Center, and the larger community of Rumford Falls (which now includes the small nineteenth century villages of "East Rumford" and "Rumford Falls"), the town in 1980 numbered some 8,200 people. Reflecting the last years of agricultural dominance, Rumford's 1880 population totaled just over 1,000 residents.



R-2. CALVIN HOWE FARMSTEAD ("Orchard Hill")

ca. 1800, ca. 1835. Route 5

The Calvin Howe Farmstead is significant as a very early Rumford home which has remained in the hands of the same family throughout its history. Architecturally, the assemblage of farm structures, including one of the county's largest remaining "English barns" (see also R-10), is important for conveying a remarkably accurate picture of an early nineteenth century Maine farmstead. In 1800, John Howe journeyed with his family from Watertown, Massachusetts, to this site near the Andover town line on the west side of the Ellis River valley. One of the town's first coopers, Howe erected a small Cape, now incorporated into the rear ell of the house. His son, Calvin Howe, erected the larger five-bayed main portion around 1835. Set against a rural landscape, the Howe Farmstead remains little changed since this last major rebuilding.

R-3. DEACON HEZEKIAH HUTCHINS HOUSE

ca. 1818. Route 5 (NR)

A fine Federal period residence whose ample proportions have much in common with earlier Colonial houses, this two-and-a-half story structure with massive interior chimneys was erected about 1818 by Hezekiah Hutchins, who came to Rumford from Hampstead, New Hampshire, around 1803. A founder and deacon of the Congregational Church Society in Rumford, Hutchins was moderator at early town meetings and served as a local constable, tax collector, and justice of the peace. A recent refurbishment has preserved much of the building's original character, but its most notable feature remains in the interior wall frescoes in the north parlor, attributed to itinerant artist Rufus Porter (1792-1884). In addition to the murals, done ca. 1840, Porter also painted the



paneling and wainscoating with a type of candle-smoke graining that is quite effective. The murals are similar to those in the Dr. Moses Mason House at Bethel (see B-13).

R-4. SAMUEL LUFKIN FARMSTEAD ("Silver Farm")

ca. 1824 and later. East Andover Road

Important for its associations with Rumford's nineteenth century agricultural background, the Samuel Lufkin Farmstead remains one of the most interesting of the area's many examples of connected architecture. The first born white child in Rumford (1788), Samuel Lufkin is thought to have constructed the present high-posted Cape and connecting ell about 1824. Beginning in 1855, four generations of the Silver family worked the extensive surrounding acreage; much of the farmstead's present appearance may be attributed to George Turner Silver (b. 1843), a blacksmith, cabinetmaker, and house carpenter who built or redesigned several nearby houses in North Rumford. A "paint mine" at the rear of the property once supplied local residents with the basic ingredients for coating their buildings and furnishings.

A short distance south is the Goddard House (1860), a fine Greek Revival Cape with a later wing (1966) in sympathetic style.

Several miles north, near the Andover town line, is the ca. 1821 Enos Abbott Farmstead, a particularly well-preserved Cape with connecting ells and barn, constructed by one of the town's early wheelwrights.

R-5. PHINEAS WOOD HOUSE

ca. 1810. East Andover Road off Route 2

One of four extant hip-roofed Federal style houses in Rumford (see also R-13 and R-15), this two-story frame structure, raised around 1810, was long the center of one of the town's most prosperous stock farms. Its builder, Phineas Wood, came to Rumford from Dracut, Massachusetts, in 1800 and before his death in 1845 gained a wide reputation as one of the leading agricultural figures in northern Oxford County. A recent renovation has seen the house's fenestration returned to small-paned sash. On the second floor, one room with decorative wall stenciling has survived.

A short distance north, on the Red Hill Road, is the picturesque Kimball Farmstead, containing a substantial vernacular Victorian house built in 1880 and a massive gable-roofed barn erected by Hanover carpenter J. Gardner Roberts in 1897. Settled before 1800 by Moses Kimball of Exeter, New Hampshire, this upland site in the shadow of massive White Cap Mountain remains in the hands of Kimball descendants.

R-6. LUFKIN-FRENCH FARMSTEAD

ca. 1825, ca. 1870. East Andover Road

One of several well-preserved nineteenth century farmsteads in Rumford, this collection of frame structures is significant for retaining its original exterior appearance in an undisturbed rural setting. Begun by Joseph Lufkin, a farmer and itinerant preacher who bought land here in 1809, the farmstead was brought to its present generous proportions by his son, Merritt Lufkin, who added many of the present outbuildings, as well as additional acreage.

A short distance south is the Graham-Coffin House, a two-and-a-half story five-bayed residence with modified Greek Revival exterior trim. The well-preserved residence was completed around 1845.

R-7. "CENTER MEETINGHOUSE" (Congregational Church)

1828. Route 2 at Rumford Center Village

Though extensively remodeled on the interior and now missing its original multi-paned sash, the Center Meetinghouse remains one of Oxford County's most historic early nineteenth century structures. The origins of the present building may date to 1803, when the town hired Francis Keyes, son of the town's first settler, Jonathan Keyes, to "build a house forty feet square, twelve foot post, and with a hip roof." First used for the annual town meeting in 1805, this earlier building remained unfinished and fell into decay. According to Rumford's second Congregational minister, the Reverend Daniel Gould (for whom Gould Academy



at Bethel was named), a religious revival resulted in the construction of an "elegant . . . finished meetinghouse," dedicated in October 1828. Internal evidence supports the theory that timbers from the first structure were used in the present meetinghouse, which also functioned as a town meeting place until 1897.

Similar in exterior appearance to the slightly older Congregational Church at Sweden (see S-17), the Center Meetinghouse is important as a typical Federal period public building constructed in a highly rural location. Its gable-end facade with pilastered doorways and a tripart window is a particularly interesting composition.

West of the Meetinghouse is the Methodist Church (1863), a plain structure with tall stained-glass memorial windows, open belfry, and tall spire. Beyond and on the opposite side of the road is the Rumford Grange Hall, built around 1860 by local carpenter Patrick Hoyt. Used originally as a Sons of Temperance Hall, the two-and-a-half story frame structure also housed a general store operated for many years by Nathan S. Farnum, who lived opposite. The Grange acquired the well-preserved building in 1897. Next door is the former Methodist Parsonage (ca. 1921), a shingle-covered residence which shows influence from the Bungalow style. At the opposite end of the village is Lufkin School, a vernacular structure built in 1898 and now headquarters of the local historical society.

Behind the Meetinghouse is the town's oldest cemetery, where the grave of an early Methodist minister, the Reverend John Martin (d. 1805), is the earliest recorded.

R-8. OLIVER PETTENGILL FARMSTEAD

ca. 1866. Route 2

This hillside farmstead overlooking broad intervals of the Androscoggin River includes a substantial two-and-a-half story house with modified Greek Revival trim

and a massive barn with octagonal cupola. Constructed by Oliver Pettengill, a prominent local farmer who came to Rumford from Livermore Falls in 1866, the buildings convey the prosperous agrarian society that existed here in the second half of the nineteenth century. The house, in addition, has historic importance as the place where, in 1882, Waldo Pettengill (Oliver's son) and "Paper Trust Magnate" Hugh J. Chisholm planned the purchase of extensive valley lands for the development of an industrial community at Rumford Falls — a task that took Pettengill eight years to complete.

Similar building clusters reflecting stylistic importance are the Martin Farmstead (ca. 1883) on the Martin Road off Route 2 at Rumford Point, the Hoyt Farmstead (ca. 1875) on Route 5 in the North Rumford section of the town, and the Abbott Farmstead (ca. 1845 and later) on Route 2 west of "East Rumford."

R-9. RUMFORD POINT VILLAGE

Route 2

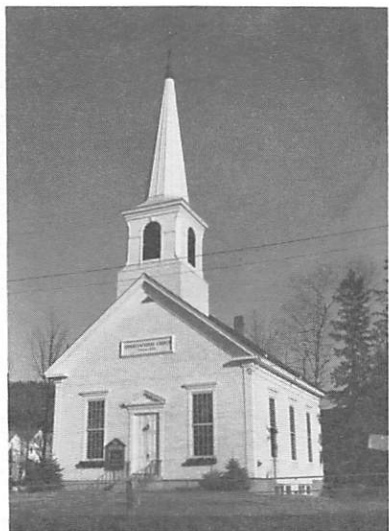
Located where the Androscoggin River turns sharply at its junction with the Ellis River, Rumford Point Village, though relatively small in size, contains the finest concentration of early to mid-nineteenth century structures surviving in the town. Predominantly Federal and Greek Revival in character, these buildings convey the commercial and cultural prosperity of one of Rumford's oldest social centers. Though divided by one of the state's busiest highways, the village maintains its earlier identity through the uninterrupted placement of its nineteenth century structures and by the proximity of open fields and heavily-forested mountains.



Lyman Rawson House

Standing at the village's east end, between the road and the river, is the

Alexander Kimball House, a simple side-hall Greek Revival structure built about 1840. The attached stable to the rear was used by Kimball for his harness-making activities. Next door is a substantial two-and-a-half story gable-to-the-street residence built in 1851 by Lyman Rawson, a Paris, Maine-born lawyer, state legislator, and judge of probate. Reflecting Greek Revival stylistic influences, the house exhibits a pedimented four-bayed facade, tall first story windows, inset porches framed in block moldings, and a low portico off the west wall; this side entrance porch is probably a Colonial Revival addition. Maintained in near original condition by descendants of the first owner, the Rawson House is a valuable reminder of one of Rumford's most influential nineteenth century citizens.



Congregational Church

The Congregational Church (1864-65), the third and only surviving structure of its type raised within the village, is a plain but strikingly well-proportioned building whose tall spire is a local landmark. The church displays tall multi-paned windows, a double-doored entry capped with a distinctive triangular pediment, and a belfry pierced with round-arch louvered openings and sheathed in flush boarding. The building's greatest significance lies in the trompe l'oeil frescoes painted on the interior walls soon after the structure was completed. Though an exact attribution is lacking, the paintings may have been executed by artist Charles Schumacher, who frescoed the nearby Second Congregational Church (no longer standing) in the "Mayville" section of Bethel in August 1866.

Near the site of the present bridge crossing was once located the Rumford Point ferry (1809-31, 1839-1956), the last of its type to operate on the Androscoggin River.

The wide-gabled Greek Revival house with connecting ell and stable to the west was constructed for village lawyer Orlando Blanchard in 1866. Its denticulated cornice and pair of bay windows at the facade are interesting original features. Among the house's later occupants was Louise Dickinson Rich, whose work *Happy the Land* (1946) described Rumford Point Village as it appeared several decades ago.



Kimball Store

What may be the county's oldest wood-frame commercial structure stands further west. Constructed in 1820 by Moses F. Kimball, who also ran a nearby tavern and the river ferry, the "Kimball Store" is a valuable though sadly neglected survivor from the village's formative years. Its long, asymmetrically arranged street side retains original fenestration of nine-over-six and twelve-over-twelve paned sash. In need of immediate stabilization, the store functioned as a center of village activity until the 1920s.

The small siding-covered structure beyond was the first blacksmith shop at Rumford Point and remains a rare survival of its type in the region. Constructed by Aaron Marean about 1814, the building housed a local farrier until 1905. Next door, a high-posted Cape enframed with heavy Greek Revival moldings was erected in 1853 by William Phinney, who came here from Portland and operated the adjacent blacksmith shop from 1853 to 1893. Further along Route 2, at the edge of the river's bank, stood Rumford's first Universalist Church (see also R-21) constructed in 1863 on a plan similar to that of the Congregational Church to the east. The Universalist Church was unfortunately demolished in 1956.

Built by local housewright David Elliot, the "1824 House" makes an architectural statement through a restrained use of decoration and a fine sense of proportion. The house exhibits a sidelighted Federal style doorway with semi-elliptical wood fan. Tall end-wall chimneys formerly gave the structure a more sophisticated appearance.

Beyond a side-hall house (ca. 1865) with delicate bargeboard trim is the Rumford Point Cemetery, resting place for many of the town's most notable nineteenth century residents. In the space occupied by those gravesites nearest the road stood the village's first religious edifice, a "Union Church" erected previous to 1830 and destroyed by fire in March 1863.

The vernacular house and store to the east were constructed in 1892; modest in exterior appearance, they remain as unpretentious examples of late nineteenth century local architecture. A short distance east, where Route 2 turns sharply, stands the Aaron Stevens House (ca. 1820 and later). In a building pattern seen throughout the county, the two-story ell of this multi-unit village residence is the oldest portion, while the low-posted Cape fronting the street was constructed several years later. The house was the home of Dr. Thomas Roberts, a popular local physician, from 1846 to his death in 1876.



Moses F. Kimball House (l), Porter Kimball House

Fronting the junction of Routes 2 and 232, where a century ago there existed a small Common (since absorbed by a much-widened highway), are two substantial Federal houses that express some of the most often seen characteristics of the style as interpreted by local builders. That furthest west, the Moses F. Kimball House, was built about 1815 by a prominent local blacksmith, storekeeper, tavern-operator, and ferryman. For many years the only hotel at Rumford Point, the Kimball House retains a fine entrance doorway with transom light, entablature, and framing pilasters. Evidence of extensive wall murals, done in the style of noted itinerant artist Rufus Porter, exists in one of the first floor front rooms. At the rear of the property is a small gable-roofed building (ca. 1865) once used as a harnessmaker's shop, doctor's office, and post office.

The house next door (ca. 1836) is a late example of the Federal style which displays an elegant central doorway with broad fan and delicate carved moldings. Unusual for its generous proportions and massive center chimney (more often

associated with earlier Colonial or Georgian styled houses), the two-and-a-half story house was constructed by Porter Kimball, a successful village blacksmith. The structure is better known as the "Dr. Hiram Abbott House," after a prominent physician who occupied it from 1889 to 1921.



Monroe House

Beyond a row of vernacular houses, mostly dating to before the Civil War, stands one of the finest Greek Revival houses in northern Oxford County. Constructed in 1847 by housewright David Elliot for Charles and Abigail Monroe, the two-and-a-half story structure achieves a distinctive temple-like form through the use of a flush-boarded facade articulated by broad pilasters and a wide entablature. Like the Arba Thayer House at South Paris (see P-14), this well-preserved example was undoubtedly the most fashionable village residence of its day. The inset doorway with full sidelights and tripart attic window in a Palladian-like motif are notable design elements.

Standing on a knoll nearby is the Kimball Schoolhouse (1869 and later), the oldest structure of its type in the town. Built on the site of an earlier school, the clapboard-covered structure served variously as a primary, grammar, and high school until its closing in 1964. A modern fire station was unfortunately constructed directly in front of the school in 1977, rendering future use of this historic structure impossible.

R-10. NATHAN ADAMS BARN

ca. 1803. Route 2

Beginning in the 1820s, many Oxford County farmers began adopting a connected arrangement for their farm structures, both for practical and economic



reasons. Previous to this, a majority of western Maine farmsteads included a barn of mortise-and-tenon construction with its major entrance in one of the side walls, rather than the gable end. Termed an "English barn," because of its Old World origins, such buildings continued to appear until around the Civil War, but much less frequently than barns with entrances centered in the gable end. Built about 1803, the Nathan Adams barn may be the largest surviving example of its type in Oxford County and certainly qualifies as one of the oldest.

A veteran of the Revolution and a successful farmer in Andover, Massachusetts, Nathan Adams came to this site on a rise above the fertile Androscoggin intervales soon after the town's incorporation (1800). Next to the barn he raised a massive hip-roofed double-chimneyed house (now destroyed), portrayed in a painting reproduced in William B. Lapham's *History of Rumford* (1890). Adams' son, Nathan, Jr., opened Rumford's first post office in one of the house's rooms in 1815; in 1830, he was instantly killed when he fell from one of the barn beams. The present house was constructed in the 1890s.

R-11. EBENEZER VIRGIN HOUSE

ca. 1820. East Bethel Road off Route 232 at Rumford Corner Village

PETER C. VIRGIN HOUSE

ca. 1815.

This fine five-bayed low-posted Cape was erected at Rumford's oldest village about 1820. For much of the nineteenth century, the well-preserved house was the residence of local farmer and land speculator Ebenezer Virgin. Though the small-paned windows were long ago converted to larger two-over-two paned types, the facade retains a well-scaled transomed doorway framed in pilasters. It is likely that the present double-chimney arrangement replaced a center chimney plan, more typical of the house's period.



Across the street is the Peter C. Virgin House, a fine Federal style residence that was the nineteenth century home of Rumford's first lawyer. Born in Concord, New Hampshire, in 1783, Peter C. Virgin attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College before studying law with Judah Dana of Fryeburg. Arriving in Rumford in 1815, he immediately established a successful practice in a small frame structure nearby (no longer standing). For many years town clerk and postmaster at Rumford Corner, Virgin also served as county attorney, as a representative in the Massachusetts and Maine legislatures, and as a member of the convention which framed Maine's constitution in 1819. His son, William Wirt Virgin, born here in 1823, was a Portland attorney, president of the Maine senate, and justice of the Maine supreme court.

The Virgin House is distinguished by an entablatured, transomed doorway whose framing pilasters are capped with decorative wooden urns, similar to examples at the Hezekiah Hutchins House in North Rumford (see R-3). Though much original woodwork remains, the four tall end chimneys have unfortunately been removed. Local tradition holds that several interior walls were once decorated with stenciling or frescoes, now destroyed.

R-12. JEREMIAH WARDWELL HOUSE

ca. 1840. Route 232 at Rumford Corner Village

Of the many temple-fronted Greek Revival structures built before the Civil War in Oxford County, only the Jeremiah Wardwell House survives as a prostyle example of this architectural mode. Erected about 1840 by Wardwell, a prosperous village cabinetmaker, furniture dealer, and undertaker, this much-altered house presents a rather naively designed facade consisting of an entablatured pediment supported by square piers or pillars with inset panels. The



architrave and frieze end awkwardly at the main block, rather than continuing along the side walls. Behind the portico are three bays retaining original fenestration. Now sheathed in modern asphalt siding and minus its connecting ells and barn, the Wardwell House nevertheless qualifies as one of the county's major architectural landmarks and deserves careful preservation.

To the south, beyond a Greek Revival Cape built ca. 1845 by Loammi Peabody, a village blacksmith, is the Village Improvement Society Hall, a vernacular frame structure erected as a public meeting place in 1892.

R-13. EDWARD SMALL HOUSE

ca. 1825-30. Route 232

This well-preserved center-chimney Cape with its major entrance in the gable end was constructed by Edward Small between 1825 and 1830, at a time when Rumford Corner Village was a thriving commercial and social center. Partially restored in recent years, the house has a notable pilastered, transomed doorway with a denticulated cornice, as well as unusually fine interior woodwork, including deep cornice moldings and Federal style fireplace mantels.

A short distance south, on the opposite side of the road, is the Patrick H. Virgin House, an early nineteenth century Cape with a doorway similar in scale to that on the Small House. Further along Route 232 is a fenced enclosure containing the grave of Jonathan Keyes, Rumford's first settler, and those of his family. Keyes came to Maine in 1774 from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and first settled several miles upriver in what is now Bethel (see B-5). In August 1777, he and his son, Francis, established the first farmstead at New Pennacook (Rumford) on this site, to which the remainder of his family came in 1779. During the Indian raid on Sudbury Canada (Bethel) in 1781, the Keyes removed to New Gloucester, an

all-important staging area for the development of towns further inland. The family returned here in 1783. It was in their second home, a low-posted Cape (no longer standing), that Rumford's first town meeting was held in 1800.

Further south, atop a small knoll, is the Moody House (1835), one of four Federal style hip-roofed houses extant in the town. The structure's five-bayed facade with asymmetrical first floor arrangement may be as originally built.



R-14. JONATHAN A. BARTLETT HOUSE

ca. 1845. South Rumford Road

Demonstrating the creativeness of a prominent local builder, this small residence was constructed about 1845 in the Greek Revival style. Its designer and first occupant, Jonathan Adams Bartlett, was a successful farmer, housewright, cabinetmaker, and sign painter. Of even greater significance, however, were Bartlett's efforts at producing portraits and still life paintings, art works that have recently brought this obscure painter recognition as one of New England's leading nineteenth century folk artists. As an architect, Bartlett was obviously influenced by contemporary pattern books and possibly by existing structures in larger Maine communities. The Bartlett House is distinguished by a pedimented facade with inset corner porches supported by single fluted Doric columns.

Across the road is the Aaron Graham House (ca. 1815), a Federal style residence with a later Greek Revival entablatured doorway and interesting nineteenth century interior wall stenciling. For many years, Graham operated a river ferry from this site to Rumford Center Village. Nearby is the "Thurston District Schoolhouse" (1903) which functioned in its original purpose for only a decade.

R-15. COTTON ELLIOT FARMSTEAD

ca. 1815. South Rumford Road

This "extended" structure consists of a two-story Federal style hip-roofed house to which is appended a story-and-a-half dormered ell, stable, and massive barn. The well-preserved farmstead was begun about 1815 by Cotton Elliot who came to New Pennacook before 1792 from Concord, New Hampshire. At the center of the house's five-bayed facade is a particularly well-proportioned doorway framed in pilasters and capped with transom light and entablature. As originally built, the house contained a massive center chimney, which has now been removed.

To the west is the Thurston Farmstead (ca. 1870), built most likely by Trueworthy Thurston who came here from the town of Peru in 1869. The vernacular Victorian buildings remain little changed in exterior appearance.

**R-16. DR. JAMES ELLIOT HOUSE**

ca. 1896. South Rumford Road

A fine example of "folk Victorian" architecture, the Dr. James Elliot House demonstrates how traditional gable-roofed houses in the county were later embellished with pre-cut detailing made available at local lumber yards and distant mills reached by newly-constructed railroads. This multi-unit structure makes a strong stylistic statement through a minimum of decorative detail which is painted in highly contrasting colors (also seen on high-style Queen Anne houses). Located in a region where few Victorian houses retain their original exterior paint schemes, the Elliot House is an important survivor of late nineteenth century building tastes.

Further west is the Mt. Zircon Spring Water Company bottling plant, a massive concrete and wood structure with exposed eave rafters constructed in 1922 (see also M-8).

A few miles east of the Dr. Elliot House, on a connecting road with Route 108, are a group of Bungalow style houses ("Lane Cottages") dating from the second quarter of this century.



R-17. DUNTON LUMBER COMPANY STORAGE HOUSE

ca. 1898. Prospect Avenue off Route 2

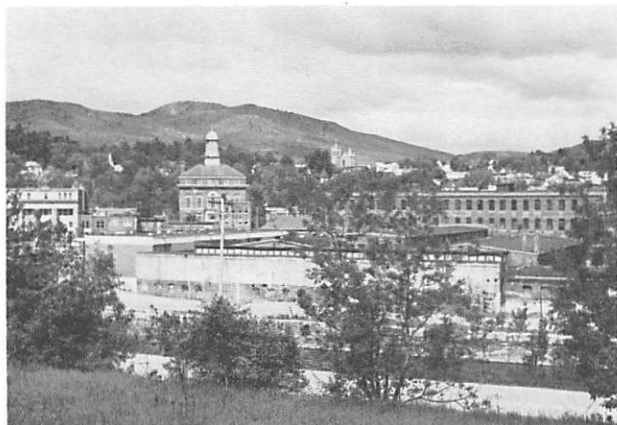
Important as a supplier of building materials during the "boom years" of Rumford Falls' industrial development, the Dunton Lumber Company was founded in the mid-1890s as the Rumford Falls Lumber Company but in 1898 was purchased by a group of influential local businessmen and greatly expanded. Located in the "Virginia" section of the town, at a site above the "Great Falls" settled early in the nineteenth century by the Virgin family, the mill flourished at a time when the demand for lumber for the construction of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings was at its peak. Closed in 1926, the company is recalled today in a few scattered wood-frame buildings, of which this long gable-roofed storage structure is the most interesting survivor.

A short distance north on the opposite side of the street is the vernacular Queen Anne Hollis C. Dunton House (ca. 1898), one-time residence of the lumber company's manager.

R-18. RUMFORD FALLS COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Off Route 2 (NR)

Located on what is essentially an island, with the Androscoggin River and "Middle Canal" making up much of its boundary, the commercial district at Rumford Falls was begun under the direction of industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm in 1890. Consisting of only eight city blocks, the district was built up in less than two decades and contains several structures of high architectural merit. Four of these — the Municipal Building, Strathglass Building, Rumford Falls Power Company Building, and Mechanic Institute — have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the title "Historic Resources of Rumford Commercial District." These four buildings, and a few others, form an extremely homogenous grouping, owing to the very short time span of their construction. In addition, the Rumford business district contains Oxford County's finest collection of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Beaux Arts commercial buildings. Constructed between 1906 and 1916, the nominated structures are more opulent and decorative than might be expected of a typical Maine industrial community.



Commercial District with Municipal Building (1)

Standing near the northern end of Congress Street is the Municipal Building, built in 1916 from designs by Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs. Flanked by the Colonial Revival Post Office and Fire Station (both 1917), the massive brick structure with granite trim stands two-and-a-half stories high and displays such Neoclassical elements as the modillioned entrance portico in a modified Doric order and the large Palladian window with decorative swags above. On the roof is a highly ornamented clock donated to the town by Waldo Pettengill, an influential "town father," in 1921. Early Rumford town meetings had been held at the Rumford Center Meetinghouse (see R-7), but with the coming of major industrial development meetings were soon moved to Rumford Falls. In 1915 an initial

\$25,000. was appropriated for a new municipal building; the large hall (no longer used) on the second floor was ready for the town meeting held early in 1917. Of interest on the interior is one of the courtroom walls, decorated with the "Birth of Law," a large-scale mural executed by noted Monmouth artist Harry Cochrane in 1923. Designed to reflect the ambition and optimism of this new community, the Municipal Building remains the most sophisticated example of its type in the county. Coombs, the architect, was also responsible for designing the Veterans Hospital at Togus (Chelsea, Maine).

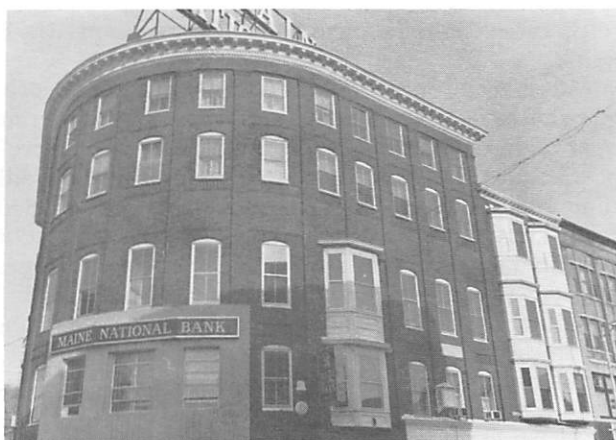


Strathglass Building

To the south is the Strathglass Building ("Hotel Harris"), built to house department stores in 1906 and now adapted to residential/commercial use. Designed by the architectural firm of Stone, Carpenter, and Wilson of Providence, Rhode Island, the four-storied brick building has colossal engaged Ionic columns of limestone which support an equally massive entablature with a highly elaborate cornice. A major fire in 1931 gutted the building and eliminated a row of large decorative urns atop the cornice; it was soon after this that the fourth story was added and the interior adapted as a hotel. Reflecting the tastes and values of the country's industrial barons at the turn-of-the-century, the Beaux Arts Strathglass Building is a county landmark of major architectural significance.

Framing the view to the south are two impressive commercial structures whose facades curve gracefully around the street corners. That on the easterly side of the street, the Odd Fellows Block, was constructed in 1894. Its five-story height and decorative brickwork create a distinctive presence. Across the street is the Cates Block (1895), a four-story structure exhibiting granite-capped groups of windows and inset panels with low-relief floral carving.

Of the remaining business blocks between Hartford and Exchange streets, only that on the southern end of the east side is of architectural interest. Built



Odd Fellows Block

sometime in the 1930s, the one-story building has inset panels of low-relief carving and a roof parapet with vertical projections reminiscent of popular Art Deco types. Like many Congress Street structures, however, this example has had its store fronts badly altered.



Rumford Falls Power Company Building

Diagonally across the street is the Rumford Falls Power Company Building (1906), a flamboyant example of the Beaux Arts style. Constructed of brick with concrete trim, the two-story building was designed by Henry J. Hardenbergh, a prominent New York architect whose commissions included the Waldorf and Plaza Hotels in New York and the Copley Plaza in Boston. Headquarters of the firm largely responsible for Rumford's phenomenal growth, the Power Company Building once carried its name in raised letters on a low false front with urns, now removed. Behind its highly exuberant exterior is an equally rich classical interior,

including an elaborately vaulted second floor ceiling supported by Ionic columns of Carrara marble.

On the opposite side of Congress Street is the Neoclassical Mechanic Institute (1911), an imposing brick structure that regrettably must now compete with the somewhat larger but architecturally undistinguished Muskie Development Center next door. Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Miller and Mayo within guidelines established by Hugh J. Chisholm, the four-storied building has window openings trimmed in decorative concrete. The most notable feature is the massive Doric colonnade on the second and third floor levels which covers a central, recessed section of the building's facade. The Mechanic Institute was organized by the Rumford Falls Power Company as a benevolent and educational association for mill workers. As the Rumford Community Center, it retains its original arrangement of street level stores and public rooms on the three floors above.

Facing the Mechanic Institute are several interesting wooden commercial structures that may date into the 1890s. Important as examples of Congress Street's first buildings, they also give some indication of the original "island" plan, composed of narrow but very deep building lots.



R-19. CONTINENTAL PAPER BAG COMPANY MILL ca. 1899. Lowell Street

Now used mainly for storage, this massive brick mill is the last intact example of a late nineteenth century factory at Rumford Falls. Surrounded today by an undistinguished complex of paper and pulp mill buildings, the structure is an important architectural symbol of Rumford's birth as one of the nation's largest paper-producing centers.

By 1890, industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm had acquired some fourteen hundred acres around Rumford Falls, and the tracks of the former Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad, renamed the "Portland and Rumford Falls Railway," were being extended from Canton northward. That same year, the Rumford Falls Power Company was organized to utilize the tremendous power source of the Androscoggin River as it plunged over the county's highest waterfalls. In a flurry of activity, the area immediately east of the present commercial district was first developed, with stone head gates and a canal (both extant) completed by 1893. Soon, the substantial brick mills of the Rumford Falls Sulphite Company, the Fort Hill Chemical Company, and the Rumford Falls Paper Company were in operation, with the latter the first to produce paper here in July 1893.

In 1898, Chisholm and several associates brought together some twenty pulp and paper mills throughout New England and New York as the "International Paper Company"; the sprawling mills at Rumford Falls were absorbed into this large corporation, of which Chisholm was president from its organization until 1907. In 1899, an adjunct of International, the Continental Paper Bag Company, was incorporated, and its factory, still standing, was built. Later that year, Chisholm organized the Oxford Paper Company, whose much-expanded (and now-renamed) facilities dominate the community today.

The massive brick Continental Mill is distinguished by tall brick pilaster strips, well-crafted corbelling around its nearly flat roof, and segmental-arched windows with small-paned sash. It remains today as a major architectural landmark at Chisholm's "City-in-the-Wilderness."

R-20. PROSPECT AVENUE AND FRANKLIN STREET HOUSES

ca. 1892-ca. 1910. Off Route 2

Beginning in 1890 major industrial development at Rumford Falls resulted in a frenzy of construction activity, much of which centered on the housing needs of a rapidly-expanding local population. While the town's new commercial heart (see R-18) rose on an island-like area bordered by canals and the Androscoggin River, the sloping sides of surrounding hills were chosen as the most convenient sites for residential dwellings. Under the watchful eye of industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm, the entire area immediately below the "Great Falls" took on the character of a small city almost overnight; this all-consuming interest in creating a model community expressed itself in a collection of particularly impressive domestic architecture, large parts of which survive today.

Standing on the northerly end of Prospect Avenue, and along a two-block section of nearby Franklin Street (between Rumford and Maine avenues), is an important assemblage of fashionable wood and brick houses designed mainly in the Mansard, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Shingle styles, with eclectic combinations much in evidence. Typical of substantial turn-of-the-century homes that still grace many nearby streets, these mostly architect-designed houses are



strong reminders of "boom town" Rumford Falls as it existed between 1890 and World War I.



R-21. UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

1894. Franklin Street at Plymouth Avenue

The finest Shingle style structure of its type in Oxford County, the former Rumford Falls Universalist Church stands in remarkably unaltered condition amid some of the town's finest turn-of-the-century homes. Constructed in 1894, the



church displays many characteristics of the style, including shingled walls without interruption at the corners, a steeply-pitched roofline whose eaves curve upward, and a broad gable end which dominates the street facade. At the northwest corner is a square tower with contiguous narrow round-arch belfry openings beneath a pyramidal roof. Now utilized by another religious denomination, the Universalist Church is quite similar in plan to many small Victorian chapels extant in the county.

Diagonally across the street is the Methodist Church (1894), a much-altered example of late Gothic Revival architecture.

R-22. ST. ATHANASIUS-ST. JOHN CHURCH

1905, 1925-28. Maine Avenue at Knox Street

The late nineteenth century saw the return to Maine of Gothic Revival churches built in strict adherence to early medieval models, in marked contrast to the more inventive, technologically advanced designs characteristic of ambitious town and city architecture of the period. Begun in 1905 and completed mainly between 1925 and 1928, the St. Athanasius-St. John Church is Oxford County's largest and most architecturally significant Gothic Revival ecclesiastical structure. Located on the summit of a hill, with streets of closely-spaced housing below, the church remains an important focal point for Rumford's large Catholic population.

The construction of a burgeoning papermill complex here in the 1890s brought with it an influx of French Canadians, Italians, Lithuanians, Nova Scotians, Prince Edward Islanders, and Irish. Though the majority of these newcomers were Roman Catholic, the community soon saw the formation of two local parishes — St. John Church, made up of mostly French-speaking people, and St. Athanasius, serving the remainder of the town. In 1905, the basement story of the present church (St. John) was completed, while in 1928, a combination church/parochial



school (St. Athanasius) was constructed nearby. The two parishes merged in 1970, at which time the "French church" was renamed.

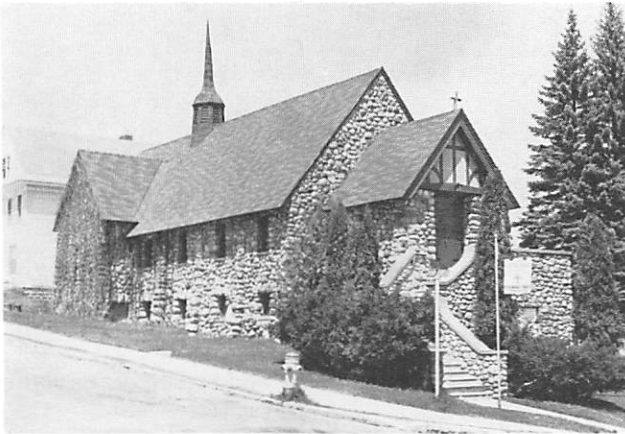
Constructed of brick and stone, the church has a rectangular form which culminates in a handsome facade unified by the placement of buttressed towers at each side. Fenestration consists of pointed-arch openings with stone tracery and stained-glass. The towers also display crenellated parapets, corner pinnacles, and octagonal spires sheathed in copper, now oxidized a dark green. The arched and vaulted space within the church is one of the county's great interiors.

R-23. BAPTIST CHURCH

1902-03. Plymouth Avenue at Washington Street

Completed in 1903 from the designs of Boston architect G. Wilton Lewis, the Rumford Falls Baptist Church is a fine example of Queen Anne style ecclesiastical architecture. Reflecting an overall plan that conforms to the building's precipitous location above the Androscoggin River, the church exhibits many of the most dominant characteristics of the style, including textured wall surfaces, projecting wings and bays, a multitude of intersecting roof planes, and a variety of window shapes and sizes.

The Baptists were first organized at Rumford Falls in 1896 and met in a nearby schoolhouse and in other newly-completed church structures until the present building was finished.



R-24. ST. BARNABUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1903-05. Rumford Avenue at Penobscot Street

Designed by Maine's most famous architect, John Calvin Stevens of Portland, St. Barnabus Church is a highly picturesque stone chapel whose exterior is reminiscent of early English country church architecture. Constructed of local materials, the well-preserved structure has buttressed walls and a steeply-pitched gable roof crowned with an octagonal cupola and short spire. In the gable end above the entrance doorway is a triangular panel of decorative (false) half-timbering, designed to mimick Medieval infilled timber framing.

To the south is the Rumford Public Library (1903), a brick structure whose

recessed arched entrance conveys a Romanesque Revival quality. Paid for largely by a Carnegie grant, the building was doubled in size by a modern addition in 1969. Behind the Library, at the edge of what remains of "Chisholm Park," is the soaring, triple-arched Memorial Bridge, a massive concrete and steel span completed in 1930.

West of the Library, on Washington Street, is the Nathan Knapp House (ca. 1815), a low-posted Cape that is the oldest surviving structure at Rumford Falls. Constructed as the second house in the vicinity by the owner of the first mills atop the "Great Falls," the historic structure displays a much later porch and large shed dormer on its five-bayed facade.



R-25. CHISHOLM SCHOOL

1895, 1897. Rumford Avenue between York and Somerset Streets

Built on a triangular lot facing the Androscoggin River and the commercial "island" district at Rumford Falls, the Chisholm School is a two-storied hip-roofed wood frame structure whose symmetrical plan and exterior detail derive mainly from Colonial Revival motifs. The building was constructed in 1895 as the first high school in what was then a rapidly growing paper mill community. Named for the founder of the county's largest industrial center, the school was expanded with a rear wing in 1897. With the construction of the brick Stephens High School (north, between York and Penobscot streets) in 1911, the Chisholm School was redesigned to house elementary grades, a function it served until just a few years ago. It is the sole survivor of three similar wooden school structures erected in the immediate vicinity at the turn-of-the-century. A recent remodeling has unfortunately eliminated much of the building's original fenestration and exterior detail.



R-26. STRATHGLASS PARK

1901-02. Off Hancock Street (Route 2) (NR)

In a move designed to resolve a major housing shortage at Rumford Falls at the turn-of-the-century, industrialist Hugh J. Chisholm organized the Rumford Realty Company in 1901 to provide comfortable residential units for local workers of small means. By the summer of 1902, Chisholm's dream had been turned into reality by the construction of twenty-eight wooden houses and fifty-one brick duplex houses, the latter designed by the noted New York architect Cass H. Gilbert and named "Strathglass Park," after Chisholm's ancestral estate in Scotland.

For the company's brick homes, supplemented later that same year with similar buildings just outside the original construction site, Chisholm chose a gently sloping hillside near the business district. In all, 186 dwelling units (plus two large boarding houses) were made available at very reasonable rates in one of the state's most unique early twentieth century housing developments.

Privately owned today, Strathglass Park's houses remain architecturally significant symbols of enlightened paternalism. Though several units have had alterations in fenestration and exterior detail, the grouping as a whole remains an important visual landmark in the county's largest community.

R-27. "HANCOCK APARTMENTS"

ca. 1910. Hancock Street north of Lincoln Avenue

The construction of large-scale industry at Rumford Falls brought with it an immediate need for mass-housing which, for the most part, was met with undistinguished three and four-story "flats" built alongside the Androscoggin in the shadow of the papermill's smoke-belching stacks. In only a few cases were

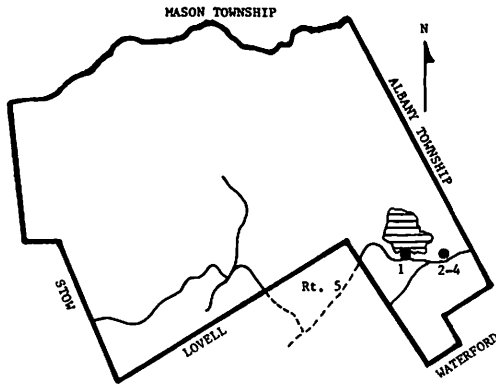


tenements embellished with decorative elements that convey a sense of architectural awareness.

Built about 1910, this three-story tenement presents a well-worked facade whose use of classic ornamentation makes it a rare and interesting example of its type. The building displays an inset centered entrance framed in pilasters and capped with a wide entablature; this decorative treatment is continued in the tall corner pilasters set on paneled bases which support an equally wide eaves entablature with elaborated cornice.

To the north are several substantial houses built as vernacular versions of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles.

STONEHAM



INTRODUCTION

The town of Stoneham was explored by hunters and trappers, and probably by lumbermen, before the close of the eighteenth century. The present town boundaries include a tract of three thousand acres granted before 1800 to Fryeburg Academy and two "divisions" made to Richard Batchelder, one of which includes the present village of East Stoneham. The earliest recorded settlement was in 1822, when Elisha Allen of Norway cleared a farmstead. However, Allen recorded the presence of at least three others — Jonathan Sawyer, Edward Wells, and Joseph Stevens — all of whom had built log homes before his arrival. After the construction in 1830 of a county road through East Stoneham from North Waterford to the town of Lovell, settlement increased. Four years later, the town was incorporated and named "Stoneham," some say in honor of Stoneham, Massachusetts. The name may also be a literal translation of the town's topographic makeup. For a brief period, the town was also known as "Usher," in honor of a large landholder, Ellis B. Usher, of Hollis.

The chief nineteenth century industry in the town was lumbering, though the many steep-sided mountains in the northern and western parts precluded Stoneham from ever becoming a regional center of industry or agriculture. The earliest saw mill was built by Jonathan Sawyer at the outlet of Keewaydin Lake, a short distance from present Route 5. In 1843, Jonathan Bartlett came to East Stoneham village from Newry and immediately established himself as the financial, social, and political leader of the community. He was later succeeded by his son, also a leading lumberman and popular state legislator.

As late as 1890, separate building clusters existed in the northern and western parts of the town, but the decline of family-operated farms and the attraction of building sites along the one major highway running through the community

caused settlement patterns to alter drastically. Today, the village of East Stoneham, long the site of dowel and wood-related mills, is the only hamlet to retain something of its nineteenth and early twentieth century character. Though the town, which recently celebrated its bicentennial, has no historical society, the East Stoneham Congregational Church has reprinted a short but valuable town history first published in 1906. Stoneham's population in 1880 was recorded at 475 people. It had dropped to less than half that number — 204 residents — a century later.

S-1. SAWYER HOUSE

ca. 1885. Route 5 on Keewaydin Lake

This eclectic late nineteenth century three-story house is a fine representative of the large, summer hotel-like cottages that dot the shoreline of many of the county's largest lakes. The clapboarded gable-end walls are framed in a gambrel roof whose concave-shaped lower slope is more properly a mansard roof broken by shed dormers. The exterior walls, which are surrounded on the first story by an open porch with spindle-like balusters, feature a variety of window treatments which include randomly-located openings of diamond and circular shape.



S-2. EAST STONEHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1895-96, 1901. Route 5 at East Stoneham Village

Raised under the supervision of Norway builder C. H. Adams, this vernacular Victorian gable-roofed structure with pyramidal-roofed corner tower is the best preserved of the few remaining nineteenth century buildings at East Stoneham

Village. In plan, the edifice resembles several other late Victorian churches built in Oxford County, most notably those in Lincoln and Magalloway Plantations (see L-2 and M-1).

In the mid-nineteenth century, Methodist religious services were held in East Stoneham, but due to the small population and a lack of funds, "regular preaching" did not take place until the 1890s, largely due to an effort by the nearby North Waterford Congregational Church. The present rear wing of the Stoneham church was added in 1901 to house the vestry.

S-3. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL

1884. Route 5 at East Stoneham Village

Significant more for its historic associations with the town of Stoneham than for any architectural merit, the East Stoneham Knights of Pythias Hall is nevertheless an important clapboard-covered vernacular structure standing in the center of this small Oxford County village. Used over the years for a variety of community-related activities, the two-and-a-half story building has windows with two-over-two paned sash and a double-doored entry at the center of the gable-end facade. A distinctive wooden shield carved in the late nineteenth century by local woodworker Nelson Russell displays the association's name above the first floor entry.



S-4. WILLIAM SMALL HOUSE

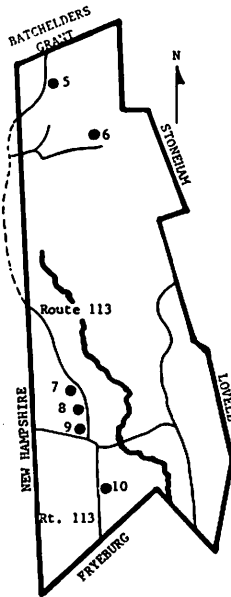
1908. Route 5 at East Stoneham Village

This shingle-covered vernacular structure is one of Stoneham's least-altered

residences and, though built in a traditional hip-roofed manner, displays a number of unusual variations in form and detail. The three-bay facade has a center doorway flanked by paired windows set at an angle where the building's first story corners have been cut away. Above these unusually placed wall openings, on the second story, appears a rather naive attempt at wooden quoining; this wall treatment is repeated at the rear of the structure. Spanning the first story facade is a broad porch supported by shingle-covered square posts.

Built by master carpenter Edwin Allen, the Small House was long the home of firearms dealer William Small and his wife, the former Jennie Ricker, of the prominent Poland Spring hotel-operating family. Small's father, a well-known Newry surveyor, laid out much of the steep grade for the Mount Washington Cog Railway.

STOW



INTRODUCTION

The town of Stow, located along the New Hampshire border north of Fryeburg, was created from several land grants, the largest of which was a four thousand acre tract given to General Joseph Frye to replace acreage thought to be a part of Fryeburg, but lost to New Hampshire when the state boundaries were run in the 1760s. First settled around 1770 by William Russell, the area remained an "unorganized" territory until achieving plantation status as "Fryeburg Addition" in 1821. Among others who cleared farmsteads by the latter date were Amos Hastings, Samuel and John Farrington, John Brickett, James and Simeon Abbott, and Samuel D. Huntress. The northern part of the plantation being interrupted by high mountains (most of which are now within the boundaries of the White Mountain National Forest), the majority of early settlements were made in the southern half nearest Fryeburg. As a result of a rapid growth in population during the first decades of the nineteenth century, Fryeburg Addition was incorporated as the town of Stow on March 4, 1833.

Stow's nineteenth century industries centered around agriculture, milling, and timber-harvesting, the latter generally recorded as "lumbering." The decline of agriculture and the disappearance of the small, self-contained mill has occurred in

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Stow alongside the introduction and development of outdoor recreation. Small-scale logging operations still exist here but are regulated to a large extent within the National Forest territory. Until access to the Androscoggin River valley was made possible by a modern highway through Evans Notch (named for early Fryeburg settler John Evans), the towns of Stow, Maine, and Chatham, New Hampshire, were hemmed in by the same mountain ranges and reached over some of the same roads. Even today, as one travels north, the repeated appearance of state boundary markers indicates how intertwined the two settlements remain.

With just over 180 residents today, the town of Stow remains sparsely settled and, thanks to its remote location and the survival of many of its nineteenth century farmsteads, retains in large part its scenic nineteenth century character. In 1880, at a time when the town's only village, known variously as Stow, Stow Corner, or Stow Post Office, supported a general store, blacksmith shop, carriage shop, and saw, grist, and shingle mills, the population was 401.



S-5. JOHN BRICKETT HOUSE

ca. 1812. Route 113 (NR)

perhaps ca. 1830 JOHN GARVIN, NH STATE HISTORIAN

Built on a site that was originally part of Batchelder's Grant but was later incorporated into the new town of Stow (1833), the John Brickett House is a remarkably well preserved brick Cape important as a substantial early structure in what was once an extremely isolated area. Brickett came to the Cold River valley around 1803 and, raising a small cabin near the present house, proceeded to clear a farmstead. Secluded several miles from the nearest saw mill, Brickett chose to construct his second wilderness home of brick which he manufactured on the property. Completed around 1812 and for several decades the northernmost house in this steep-sided valley, the Brickett House stands in essentially unaltered

condition. Nearby Route 113, which passes the house on its way through Evans Notch, was first authorized by the Oxford County Commissioners in 1866 and improved to a modern highway by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1935.

The Brickett House, though a Cape in form, is of large proportions and has a broad four-bay gable end facing the Evans Notch Road. At the center of the five-bay southern facade is a simple entrance door with transom light; breaking the smoothly-laid brick walls are windows with six-over-six paned sash and splayed brick lintels. The tall end chimneys lead to interior fireplaces framed in combinations of Federal and Greek Revival molding. Currently leased to a Boy Scout troop, the Brickett House remains under public ownership as part of the White Mountain National Forest.



S-6. ABEL ANDREWS HOUSE ("Stone House")

ca. 1820-30. Shell Pond Road off Route 113

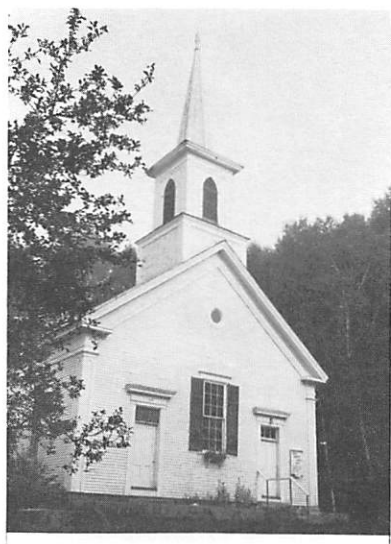
The Andrews "Stone House" is one of the most unusual nineteenth century structures extant in Oxford County. Built by the son-in-law of early settler John Brickett (see S-5), this center-chimneyed Cape has first story walls of rough-hewn granite quarried out of a nearby hillside. Records state that Abel Andrews waited until winter to haul the huge blocks to the site. He then proceeded to raise a log bridge from a knoll behind the house to a position over the slowly-rising layers of stone. Utilizing oxen, Andrews managed to draw several layers of stone into position; holes were drilled into the upper and lower sides of the blocks and iron rods inserted to prevent heaving. To the lower story, Andrews added a gable-roofed half-story of timber, and brick was fired from which to construct the center chimney and fireplaces. Retaining most of its early woodwork and six-over-six

light windows, the "Stone House" is a substantially-built mountain home raised in response to a remote and unexplored location.

S-7. TOWN HOUSE

ca. 1842-45. Route 113

This modest story-and-a-half gable-roofed structure is a representative example of a public building type popular in rural Oxford County towns during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. Stow's earliest public gatherings, including the community's meeting to incorporate in 1833, were held in local schoolhouses. In 1842 a vote was finally taken which authorized the construction of this wooden building, which appears to have been first used in the spring of 1846. Though Stow's population has dropped steadily since the turn-of-the-century, the Town House continues to provide facilities for occasional meetings.



S-8. STOW CHURCH

1869. Route 113 north of Stow Corner

Meetings of Congregationalists, Methodists, and Universalists were held in Stow even previous to its achieving plantation status as "Fryeburg Addition" in 1821. In 1869 a "Union Meeting House" was erected under the supervision of local "proprietors" O. H. Day, Sylvester and William Emerson, Charles Nutter, and

Jewett and Amos Haley. With its lofty steeple, this building remains the most prominent architectural landmark in the town; it was originally constructed for use by the local Methodists, the Congregationalists having built a church in the nearby town of Chatham, New Hampshire. Until local populations dwindled, these two towns ignored state and town boundaries in establishing and maintaining the two churches. For a time, the Stow group was associated with the Methodists at Fryeburg Harbor (see F-1).

The Stow Church is a vernacular clapboard-covered structure with tall multi-paned windows and paired doorways on the facade. The latter have transom lights and heavily entablatured cornices. At the corners of the building are pilasters with pointed-arch inset panels; this pattern is repeated at the corners of the square tower base and on the belfry. The circular gable window and arched belfry louvers add character to an otherwise austere composition.



S-9. ABBOTT HOUSE

1804 and later. Route 113 at Stow Corner

This foursquare hip-roofed wood frame house was erected in 1804 by brothers James and Simeon Abbott, who also built the first saw and grist mills in the town around 1800. The mills, which stood "in ruins" at the turn-of-the-century, were located opposite the house on the south side of the Chatham Road. Tradition states that the two brothers lived in the large residence until each had seven children; Simeon Abbott then chose to find larger quarters for his growing family and built another house not far distant. Except for a handful of small lots, the Abbotts had earlier acquired over a square mile of land running from the New Hampshire line east to the rich intervalles of the Cold River. Their home has served as a store, a post office, and a parsonage (for the nearby Methodist Church). The house, whose massive center chimney, original nine-over-six paned sash, and solid

entrance door were removed many years ago, is equal in size and proportions to the historic Peter Holman House (see D-23) at Dixfield.

Across Route 113 is the William C. Walker House, a narrow Federal style frame structure dating to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Among its owners was Isaac A. Walker, who served one of the longest careers of any Maine postmaster (1862 to 1908).

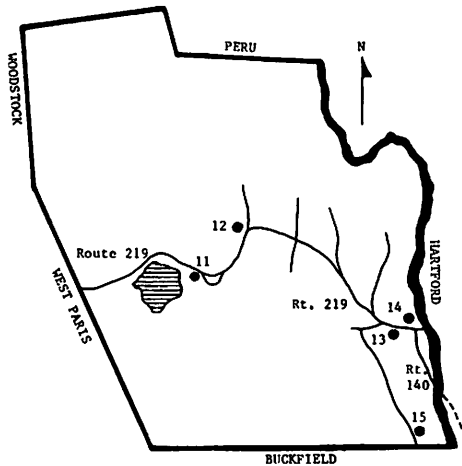


S-10. JONATHAN FRYE FIFIELD FARMSTEAD

ca. 1816, ca. 1825-30 and later. Route 113

This fine example of a five-unit connected farmstead was built by Jonathan Frye Fifield, a War of 1812 veteran who was also the grandson of Fryeburg's "Judge" Simon Frye (see F-31), one of the White Mountain region's most distinguished eighteenth century figures. Architecturally, the structure illustrates the ways in which an early nineteenth century farmhouse (in this case, the center-chimneyed low-posted Cape presently serving as an ell) was adapted to the changing needs of a growing family. To his original five-bay gable-roofed house, Fifield added, around 1825, the west-facing high-posted Cape with end-chimneys and entablatured entrance doorway. The connected shed and barns, as well as the several detached buildings located on the property, all convey a sense of quiet prosperity in a town that depended heavily on agriculture during much of the nineteenth century. Not surprisingly, Jonathan Fifield produced all of his own brick on this farm and was instrumental, as one of its founding trustees, in the creation of the West Oxford Agricultural Society in 1851.

SUMNER



INTRODUCTION

Like its sister town of Hartford, Sumner was first settled in the early 1780s, mostly by veterans of the American Revolution looking for an opportunity to establish a new community within the forested hills of inland Maine. In 1781, Samuel Butterfield and others of Dunstable, Massachusetts, petitioned the General Court at Boston for a grant of land north of that petitioned for by Abijah Buck and others, now Buckfield. Not until 1786, after two surveys of the immediate area had been made, was the petition granted; much of present-day Sumner then became officially "West Butterfield Plantation" or township "Number Six" (Hartford received the title of "East Butterfield" at the same time). The town gained rapidly in population and in 1798 was incorporated and named for Increase Sumner, then governor of Massachusetts.

Due to the influence of Increase Robinson, an early settler and town proprietor who built the first saw and grist mills in 1784, the town's first village sprang up at the site of present-day East Sumner. The western part of the town, nearest West Sumner Village, was permanently settled around 1800; the first mills there were erected about 1812 by William Cobb. With plenty of water power from both the east and west branches of the Nezinscot River, small-scale industry thrived in both villages during the later nineteenth century. Agriculture took form in numerous farmsteads situated on the sides of the town's many hills and small mountains. In the 1860s a railroad depot was built just over the Hartford line, a short distance east of East Sumner, to service traffic on the Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad. Like its neighbors, Sumner was divided into school districts early in the century,

and several schoolhouses from the pre-Civil War period are now doing service in other capacities. The decline of farming in the late nineteenth century brought with it major changes in the social fabric of many Oxford County towns, Sumner being no exception. However, the physical appearance of the town today, while certainly without the nineteenth century vitality it once knew, projects a character more associated with an earlier, more tranquil time.

Besides Increase Robinson, who was probably the most prominent of the town's earliest residents, two other individuals lent their names to the roster of prominent citizens connected with the community. Seth Sturtevant, like Robinson, had a distinguished Revolutionary record which included a term at Valley Forge and service in Washington's Life Guard, a prestigious regiment. Sturtevant came to Maine after the war had ended and lived in Sumner for fifty-five years (he died in 1852 at the age of ninety-two). While pastor of the Congregational Church in Sumner (1851-62), Reverend Benjamin G. Willey wrote the first full-scale history of the White Mountain region (of which much of western Oxford County is a part) entitled *Incidents in White Mountain History*, published in Boston in 1856. A talented writer and careful researcher, Willey had certain reason for choosing his subject — his brother's family was that destroyed in the famous "Willey Slide" of 1826 at Crawford Notch in New Hampshire.

While the demographics of Sumner's population has changed little since the Civil War, the total number residing here has dropped from 1014 in 1880 to around 600 at the present time. The villages at West and East Sumner still exist, though not as the commercial centers they once were. Current residents take pride in the existence of the town's first framed structure (1784); a number of them gathered together to form the Sumner Historical Society in 1980.

S-11. UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

1867. Route 219

The interior of the Universalist Church at West Sumner is virtually a period piece, with two brass kerosene chandeliers and two wood stoves from the Norway Stove Foundry still in place. The belfry and spire mounted on the roof ridge, the simple clapboard finish, and the modest use of basic forms for the structure's fenestration give the church an exterior similar to others of its age in the vicinity; the vestry beneath is set into the side of the hill and allows the front elevation to retain the smaller scale of county churches from earlier in the century. Placed as it is at the head of West Sumner Village (known throughout much of the nineteenth century as "Jackson Village"), the church occupies a conspicuous site.

As in East Sumner Village, where the church and grange structures dominate the scene, West Sumner boasts a substantial wood frame grange hall ("Pleasant Pond") directly behind the church on a side street; the hall was raised in 1922 and continues to function along with a dozen or so in the county. The smaller West Sumner Baptist Church, built originally in 1859-60 and remodeled in 1878, stands a short distance east.



S-12. BONNEY-HEATH FARMSTEAD

ca. 1835-40. Route 219 between West and East Sumner Villages

A particularly good example of a vernacular Greek Revival farmstead having a story-and-a-half house with paired, attached ells and separate gable-roofed barn, the Bonney-Heath Farmstead is similar in overall form and exterior finish to numerous other examples in Sumner which date from this period. Though agricultural production has all-but ceased in this eastern county community, this hillside farmstead, located at the junction of two important travel routes, has survived nearly intact.

S-13. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1883. Route 219 at East Sumner Village

Built during the Victorian period but exhibiting a restrained sense of design, the Congregational Church at East Sumner has a form which recalls church architecture of a much earlier era. The one element that conveys a major stylistic change is the steeple, which presents Moorish-like belfry openings below a blunted spire with jaunty peaked gables, bell-like curve, and metal roof cresting. Internal arrangements include a hall built into the lower story and a nave with very tall, narrow windows above. Rather than employing stick-style devices to break up the exterior wall surfaces, the local builders, not surprisingly, chose to sheath the church in traditional wooden clapboards.

The Congregational society in Sumner was organized in 1802. At Sumner Hill, two miles west, a two-and-a-half story meetinghouse was erected in 1819. A replacement structure was built in 1857, but shifting population patterns and a



revival in church activity at East Sumner led to its eventual abandonment and the construction of the present building.

Across the street and to the east are a handful of structures that convey a picture of the village during its nineteenth century heyday. To the left is an unadorned two-story house typical of county homes of its era. Directly opposite the church is the Cobb House (ca. 1860 and later), an interesting late Greek Revival house taking the form of a one-and-a-half story gable-to-the-street main block with a porched ell lying at a right angle. The tower was added early in this century. Next door is a fully accoutered Greek Revival story-and-a-half house, beyond which is a house displaying a combination of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival forms and decorative devices. To the east of this is the Sharon Robinson House (ca. 1841), a high-posted Cape which presents decorative elements on the exterior and interior taken from Federal and Greek Revival models. The central doorway with its sidelights, transom light, and faceted wood panel is notable. Sharon Robinson was a grandson of Deacon Increase Robinson (see S-14) and ran the East Sumner mills in a later generation; the Robinson Cemetery lies across the field behind the house. Elements of Bungalow and bracketed vernacular styles distinguish the remaining houses between the Sharon Robinson and Increase Robinson houses.

On the south side of the road is a hip-roofed two-story grange hall built around the turn-of-the-century. A plain, clapboarded structure, the building may be the only remaining example of its type in the county with a "spring dance floor." Around the corner to the south, on Route 140, is the Bisbee-McIntire House, the finest Greek Revival Cape in the village; its inset doorway, tall end chimneys, and fluted corner pilasters are particularly notable architectural features.



S-14. INCREASE ROBINSON HOUSE AND LIBRARY ("Neighborhood House")

1784, ca. 1800 and later. Route 219 at East Sumner Village

Sumner's most historic structure, the Increase Robinson House is an important physical reminder of the town's settlement period, when that part of Sumner around East Sumner Village was a part of "East Butterfield Plantation" (now Hartford); when both towns were incorporated in 1798, the division line was moved east to the nearby river, placing this site in Sumner. One of the town's most influential early settlers, Increase Robinson was a Revolutionary veteran who journeyed here from Pembroke, Massachusetts, in 1783. During the initial years of the community's growth, he served in several important capacities — as miller, cooper, tanner, storekeeper, and deacon of the Congregational Church. The first mills in the settlement were constructed by Robinson in 1784 on the east branch of the Nezinscot River just to the right of the house.

Robinson's first home was a log structure which was replaced in 1784 by a framed house, now the ell of the present building. A single room deep with a gabled roof, this earlier portion retains its asymmetrical facade and small nine-over-six paned sash. Around 1800, Robinson built the larger Cape section, now minus its massive center chimney. The interior contains remarkable field-paneled wainscoting and doors, as well as moldings and chimneybreasts in a late Georgian style. The inside wall treatment is related in style to that of interior elements found at the Abijah Buck House in Buckfield (see B-35), but is here somewhat better scaled. There is also similar work, though less of it, at the Charles Bisbee House on the Bonney Road (see S-15), at the Sumner/Buckfield town line. The Robinson House's exterior decoration includes a door enframingent in Greek Revival style.

Increase Robinson is mentioned in the missionary journals of the Reverend Paul Coffin of Buxton, Maine, who notes that he stopped to see the "Deacon" in 1800;

Robinson had "two houses, two barns, a saw and a grist mill, and a potash" at that time and fed Coffin "water mellons having white seeds."

During the 1930s, the sheds of the Robinson House were converted into a library under the direction of Lucian Moore Robinson, a descendant who, at his death, left the house to the towns of Hartford and Sumner to be used as a community center. Lucian Robinson was an Episcopal priest who summered in Hartford on the Asa Robinson farm settled by his ancestors. The library, finished in matched boards, contains many of Lucian Robinson's books and memorabilia, as well as a general collection.



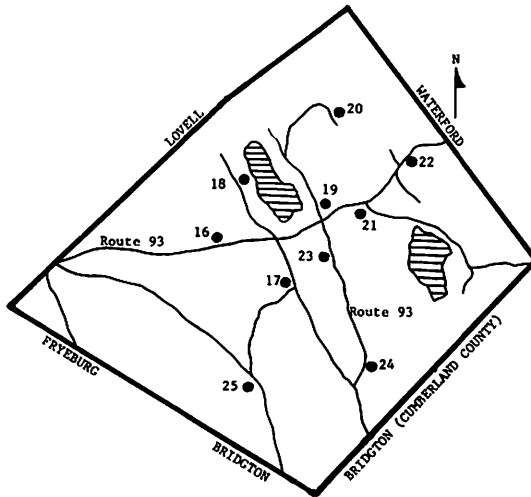
S-15. CHARLES BISBEE HOUSE

ca. 1784, ca. 1804. Bonney Road off Route 219

This simply finished but substantial Cape was built to replace the original log house on the property of one of Sumner's first settlers, Charles Bisbee, and probably incorporates elements of the earlier building. Restored by its present owners, the Bisbee House is in the process of having its windows returned to their original nine-over-six light sash and their original size. The central chimney has been reconstructed, using modern brick. On the interior, one room contains fine woodwork in late Georgian style, with chimneybreast and field-paneled wainscoting. On many of the other walls, vertical boarding is used as a sheathing.

Both the Bisbee House and the nearby James Bonney House in Buckfield (see B-34) have their formal entrances in the gable end facing the road, as well as an entrance in the symmetrically arranged south-facing facade.

SWEDEN



INTRODUCTION

The earliest history of the town of Sweden is closely connected with that of Lovell, inasmuch as Sweden before its incorporation in 1813 formed the southeastern corner of that town. Eighteenth century maps of "New Suncook," as Lovell was known in its plantation period, thus include the few settlements made in Sweden before that time. By 1813, disputes over the placement of roads and the location of saw and grist mills caused the "votable inhabitants" of Lovell to divide the town. Sweden's boundary first embraced the "Four Mile Square" below the Kezar River but was enlarged on the north by taking more of Lovell, though the line was angled to not include the hamlet of Lovell Village, already in existence. Later additions made from what was formerly Fryeburg territory created the existing boundaries — clearly longer east-west than north-south.

The gravestone of Jacob Stevens, in the Stevens Cemetery just north of Route 93, proclaims that it was he who first settled the town. Though it is generally agreed that Stevens's 1797 cabin was the first permanently occupied structure, the distinction of having cleared the first farmstead and having lived here must go to Colonel Samuel Nevers, a Revolutionary veteran who came in 1791 to fell trees and built his own log cabin the following year. Although Samuel Nevers initially returned each fall to Massachusetts, he soon settled here permanently (as evidenced by his extant frame house) and properly deserves to be called the first to establish a farmstead in Sweden. Among the other first settlers were David Milliken, Sullivan Jones, Oliver Haskell, and Benjamin Webber.

Although heavily dependent on agriculture, Sweden supported a number of local businesses during the nineteenth century. The earliest settlers obtained sawed lumber from the mills of present-day Lovell and surrounding towns for the scattered frame houses erected prior to the establishment, around 1810, of Sweden's first saw and grist mill; this first industrial site on Duck Hill Brook was begun by Paul Whitcomb and stood a short distance north of the Waterford Road off the present Ledge Hill Road. Besides several general stores, taverns, and inns (the first post office in Lovell was located at Woodbury's Tavern on present Route 93 in Sweden), the various neighborhoods of the town contained the shops of coopers, blacksmiths, cobblers, wheelwrights, and joiners. Also of major economic significance during periods of the last century were a local granite quarry and a straw hat factory. As the importance of agriculture decreased and Sweden's population dropped, the emergence of outdoor recreation, with its accompanying seasonal homes and cottages, made its mark on the town. Forestry, especially during the last two decades, has also played a role in the local economy. Today, a large number of those residing here work elsewhere or have retired to the town's relative quiet.

Despite the ravages of time and the subsequent disappearance of most of Sweden's nineteenth century commercial and industrial architecture (the Nevers Blacksmith Shop, maintained by the Sweden Historical Society, being an exception), the town boasts valuable examples of local architecture, most notably its churches, schools, and houses. Of those nineteenth century structures extant, important Federal, Greek Revival, and vernacular types provide points of interest in one of the county's most scenic rural communities.

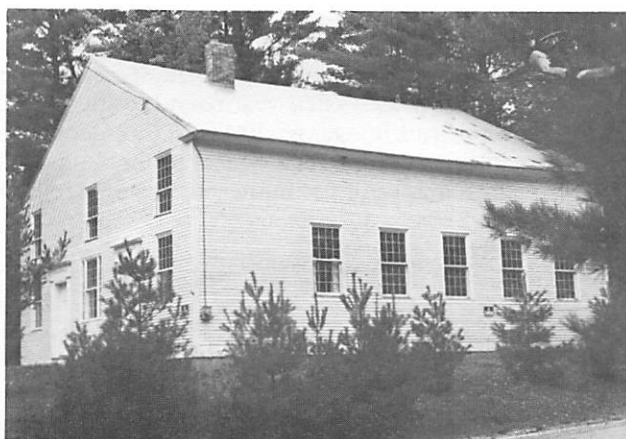
Even though most of the county's towns had at least one major village or even several during the nineteenth century, Sweden early established a series of "neighborhoods," none of which could properly be called a self-contained community. The section of town lying within the right angle formed by modern Route 93 was traditionally considered the "town center," both for its once-cleared aspect and for the numerous public buildings standing there. Sweden's 1880 population was 474. In 1980, 161 people were full-time residents.

S-16. SAUNDERS HOUSE

ca. 1820 and later. Route 93

This large double-chimneyed Federal style house with ell and barn stands at the eastern end of the "Woodbury Neighborhood," named for the owner of a nearby tavern (no longer standing) which served in 1811 as New Suncook's first post office. Just east of this location, at the four corners known as "Holden Hill," stood for many years the Saunders Store, one of three such establishments that once operated in Sweden. Though it has been remodeled several times, the Saunders House retains much of its original character. Notable features of the house are the heavily-enframed semi-elliptical fan with wooden keyblock molding and the fine interior woodwork on fireplaces and door surrounds.

West of the Saunders House, on both sides of Route 93, stand several wooden Capes, some of the few nineteenth century examples of this building type remaining in the town.



S-17. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ca. 1818-23. Plummer Hill Road off Route 93

The history of Congregationalism in Sweden is intertwined with that of the neighboring town of Lovell, of which Sweden was a part until 1813. The church was organized in 1798 and held its first meeting in the recently erected New Suncook Town House at present-day Center Lovell (see L-12). Four years after Sweden's incorporation, a separate church was established for the growing number of new residents, and in 1823, after being "supplied" by missionaries for a period of years, the Reverend Valentine Little (see L-17) was secured for both the Sweden and Lovell churches.

An interesting example of a plain Federal style meetinghouse, the Sweden Congregational Church was framed by George and Nahum Maxwell and built on a plan similar to that of the former Lovell Methodist Church (see L-21) and the Rumford Center Meetinghouse (see R-7), both of which are extant. The Sweden edifice, long used for storage after its late nineteenth century abandonment, has recently been stabilized with the exterior returned to something near its original appearance. As late as 1907, one visitor to the building stated, "In it may yet be seen the galleries, box-pews, and high pulpit characteristic of the architecture of the time." Last utilized for regular church services in 1884 and now used as a private residence, the church has paired doorways with pilastered moldings and wide entablatures, and modern windows with false sash which convey an accurate impression of the originals. Though all of its early interior features were stripped

away long ago, the Sweden Congregational Church remains one of the most successful examples of "adaptive reuse" in Oxford County.

S-18. CAMP TAPAWINGO

ca. 1920s and later. Tapawingo Road north of Route 93

On the western shore of Keyes Pond, not far from the Stevens Cemetery and the site of Jacob Stevens' home (Sweden's first year-round residence, built in 1797) stand a cluster of shingle-covered, Bungalow style structures looking much as they did when built earlier in this century. As a typical Maine "summer camp," this assemblage is a fine representative of the numerous resorts erected around the county, beginning in the 1880s.



S-19. NEVERS-BENNETT FARMSTEAD

ca. 1820-24, 1830s, ca. 1885-87 and later. Junction of Route 93 and Waterford Road

This connected farmstead at the northeast side of "Nevers Corner" was begun between 1820 and 1824 when Amos Parker, a local farmer, constructed the two-and-a-half story Federal style portion of the structure. Between 1833 and 1835 the building was purchased by Sweden's first settler, Colonel Samuel Nevers (see S-24), for his son Benjamin. Based on surviving Greek Revival and late Federal interior woodwork, the westernmost portion of the structure was probably remodeled by Benjamin Nevers in the late 1830s. Nevers served as town postmaster for a time and opened a general store in an adjacent building, parts of which were later used in building the nearby Sweden Firehouse.

A later owner of the property, Charles Bennett, replaced an earlier side-opening "English barn" with the present, easternmost gable-roofed barn (disassembled and moved here from a site two miles away). Bennett also moved an older barn on the property into alignment with the house and connected the several parts together (ca. 1885-87). Today the structure retains this basically late nineteenth century form, though the interior has been "opened up" in a recent remodeling.

West of the Nevers-Bennett Farmstead, on the opposite side of the Plummer Road, is the Adams House, a large Federal style structure dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. For several decades the building served as a popular stage stop on the run from Paris to Fryeburg. Because of its central location, the place long-held the name "Halfway House."



S-20. DANIEL SANDERSON HOUSE

ca. 1840-50. Ledge Hill Road off Plummer Road

This brick Cape, with its interesting corbelled cornice and granite window and door lintels, is one of the last remaining nineteenth century houses in the "Brackett" or "Sanderson Neighborhood" of Sweden. Built by Daniel Sanderson at a time when numerous brick structures were being raised in Sweden and nearby Lovell, the house has survived virtually intact and has been complemented by careful interior restoration.

West of the Sanderson House, at a sharp turn in the road, stood the town's first Methodist Church; though long considered to date from ca. 1812 as the town's first church structure, recent evidence points to a date nearer 1836 as the time of construction. The building remained at this site until around 1870 when it was moved to the "town center" and rebuilt as the present Community Church (see S-23).



S-21. NEVERS BLACKSMITH SHOP

Mid-Nineteenth Century. Junction of Waterford and North Bridgton roads

The last surviving structure of its type in Sweden, the Nevers Blacksmith Shop is a small wood frame gable-roofed building currently used as the headquarters of the Sweden Historical Society. As a typical, agriculturally-based county town, Sweden once supported an interesting variety of nineteenth century businesses, many of which are well-documented by contemporary maps, directories, and account books. Among the more important ventures were three general stores, three saw mills, numerous cooper, wheelwright, cobbler, and joiner shops, and a straw hat factory. Isolated from major travel routes as well as the county's railroads, Sweden experienced a period of decline at the end of the nineteenth century. Today, all of the earlier businesses have passed into oblivion and the majority of residents travel to commercial centers in adjacent towns.

A shingle-covered building with multi-paned windows, the Nevers Blacksmith Shop still contains many of the original tools and machinery from its heyday as a prosperous Sweden work place. Marks on several of the timbers also give an indication of where the blacksmith's hoists, pulleys, and lathes were once located. This modest landmark is a valuable reminder of the importance of small-scale industry and commerce in nineteenth century Maine towns.

S-22. BROWN-STONE FARMSTEAD

ca. 1835. Waterford Road

This group of frame structures, consisting of a story-and-a-half house and a number of detached agricultural outbuildings, is a relatively unspoiled example of a typical county farmstead dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. The five-bay house features small half-sized "eyebrow windows" tucked under the

facade eaves in an arrangement seen often in high-posted gable-roofed houses of the period. Included on the property are a barn and shed located opposite the house on the north side of the road.

West of this site, at the foot of a rather steep hill, stands the clapboard-covered gable-roofed Haskell Schoolhouse built before 1858. Except for wooden semi-circular fans placed over the paired entry doors in a recent "restoration," the school's exterior is virtually intact. Now privately owned, the school may have been moved to this site years ago from a location further east.



S-23. TOWN HOUSE ("Free Meetinghouse")

1827, 1861. Route 93

COMMUNITY CHURCH

ca. 1836, ca. 1870

CENTER SCHOOLHOUSE

1854

Facing Route 93 south of "Nevers Corner" is a group of public buildings long associated with the history of Sweden. On the east side of the road stands the vernacular Greek Revival Sweden Town House, also known as the "Free Meetinghouse." Originally constructed on this site in 1827 under an arrangement with Colonel Samuel Nevers (see S-24), the building served as a meeting place for town functions as well as for religious gatherings, mainly those led by itinerant preachers in faiths other than Congregational or Methodist. Before the Civil War, the structure was used most often by a local group of Universalists. In 1861, after a local dispute over the future location of the Town House, it was voted to allow Thomas Trull and John Morrison to "alter and repair" the then-deteriorating structure, transforming it into the edifice seen today. The organizational meeting

of the Sweden grange was held here in 1875, but as the number of residents dwindled, the grange, too, faded from existence. The building features a broad three-bay facade with multi-paned windows, a central entrance doorway, and wide corner pilasters and entablature.



Center Schoolhouse, Sweden Community Church (r)

Across Route 93 is the Sweden Community Church, a circa 1870 reconstruction of an early Methodist Church that once stood in the northern part of town. According to Wellington Eastman, who wrote and delivered a historical address on the occasion of the town's centennial celebration in 1913, the Methodists were the first organized church in Sweden and supposedly built their house of worship around 1812 at the east end of the Plummer Road (see S-20). However, a document in the Community Church archives dated April 8, 1835 mentions an agreement between Sweden carpenter Stephen Sanderson and the trustees of the Methodist Church, in which Sanderson was to have completed a church structure by June 15, 1836. It was this building that was moved and rebuilt as the present Community Church (a title it received when reorganized in 1947 after years of disuse). The simply arranged vernacular building has paired doorways with transom lights, tall front and side windows, and an open belfry capped with a pyramidal roof.

Behind the Community Church is the brick Center Schoolhouse, built in 1854 of materials brought to the site from the John Emery brickyard in Lovell (see L-20) and from a local quarry. The solid gable-roofed building, the last one-room schoolhouse to operate in Sweden, was used until 1964. Since that time, the structure has served as Sweden's selectmen's office. During the nineteenth century, a road went directly from this location west to the Congregational Church (see S-17).



S-24. COLONEL SAMUEL NEVERS HOUSE

ca. 1799-1805 and later. Route 93

While it can be said that in 1797 Jacob Stevens became the first year-round resident of Sweden, Revolutionary veteran Colonel Samuel Nevers of Burlington, Massachusetts, holds the distinction of being the first inhabitant, having cleared land and stayed the summer of 1791. The following year, Nevers built the first house (a log cabin) in that part of New Suncook that later became Sweden. Several years later, Nevers raised the main part of this central-chimneyed Colonial style house which, in its scale and hilltop location, was well-suited to the lifestyle of the community's patriarch. Nevers contributed the funds to build the nearby Town House (see S-23) in 1827 and many years later donated the land for the brick Center Schoohouse which stands across the street from it. A member of the Portland convention of 1819 which determined Maine's statehood, Nevers was subsequently elected several times to the newly-formed state legislature.

The Nevers House exhibits a number of later alterations to its original plan, including the extension of the east end gable wall, the replacement of its original multi-paned sash with two-over-two paned types, and the reconstruction of its later Greek Revival entrance doorway into a "folk" pedimented type. The Nevers property once included a cooper's shop, a wool shop, and a bowling alley. The Nevers tomb remains standing across the road.

S-25. BLACK MOUNTAIN SCHOOLHOUSE

ca. 1852. Knights Hill Road

Built at a time when Sweden was still experiencing modest growth, the Black Mountain Schoohouse is one of the finest remaining nineteenth century brick

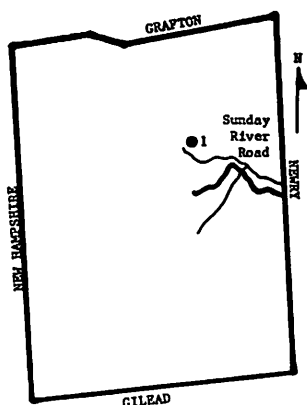


schools in Oxford County. Architecturally, the building is a surprisingly elaborate construction for such a rural location. The story-and-a-half structure has heavy granite lintels on the windows and doors, and a handsome brick cornice around the roof eaves. The brick came from the John Emery yard in Lovell (see L-20).

After the incorporation of Sweden from a corner of Lovell, the school districts in both towns were reorganized. The former Number Five Schoolhouse (built ca. 1801, now razed), next to the Webber Cemetery across from the Congregational Church (see S-17), became District School Number One. By 1825, there were five districts and one hundred forty-one students attending. By 1880, two more neighborhood schools had been built. Of those surviving educational structures in Sweden, many, like the Haskell Schoolhouse (see S-22), have been converted to residential or commercial use. The brick Center Schoolhouse (1854; see S-23), also built of material from the Emery brickyard, was the last functioning school here; it closed its doors in 1964.

TOWNSHIP A, NUMBER 1

(Riley Plantation)



INTRODUCTION

Located along the New Hampshire border north of Gilead and west of Newry, "Township A, Number 1," known also as Riley Plantation or "Ketchum," was granted to Phebe Ketchum by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for money loaned during the Revolution. Initial settlement was made about 1789 by Luke Riley (Reily), an Irishman for whom Riley Plantation was named upon its organization in 1842. A few scattered log houses existed in this mostly mountainous tract until circa 1830, when O. Israel B. Fifield of Durham, Maine, constructed a saw mill and the first framed house (no longer standing). Riley's plantation status lasted until late in the nineteenth century, when it was reclassified as "wild land." From 1901 to 1913, a post office operated from the Fifield House under the name "Ketchum," a placename still used when referring to this isolated township.

Because of its topography, Riley offered little in the way of arable land to those who ventured up the Sunday River valley looking for farmstead sites. The majority of the township's early residents chose to live within its northeast sector, where several streams joined together and provided water power for saw and grist mills. In the second half of the nineteenth century, lumbering operations saw extensive tracts of forest removed via the Sunday River; with the decline of the few farms in the settlement, paper mills purchased much of the plantation and continue to harvest timber today.

In 1890, at the height of its population, Riley Plantation boasted a total of 43 permanent residents. The number of seasonal residents who maintain homes there today is probably just short of that number.



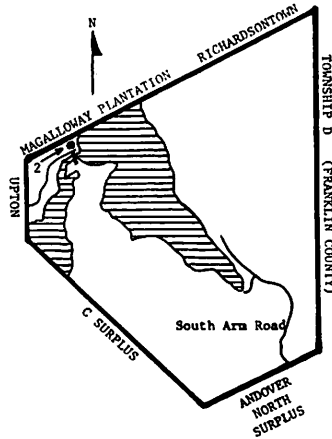
T-1. SARGENT-DEMERITT HOUSE

ca. 1830 and later. Bull Branch Road off Sunday River Road

One of three nineteenth century houses constructed in "Riley Plantation" by O. Israel B. Fifield, an early settler who came to this remote location in 1826, the Sargent-Demeritt House is the last remaining original structure from the lumbering/agricultural community of "Ketchum," named for a late eighteenth century proprietor, Phebe Ketchum. A high-posted Cape with extensive ells and attached barn, the house stands at the edge of open fields which give way to spectacular views of the surrounding Mahoosuc Mountains. Long owned by a sporting syndicate, the structure contains several interesting interior features, including a set of murals in one front room depicting the dramatic landscape as seen from the house. While a visitor here in the early 1930s, author Kenneth Roberts wrote much of his successful historical novel *Northwest Passage* (1937). A short distance from the house stands a log schoolhouse built early in this century by Owen Demeritt, a farmer and sportsman who once owned the property.

East of the Sargent-Demeritt House, on a rise beside Bull Branch Stream, is the Riley Plantation Cemetery, containing the graves of many early residents of this now-abandoned settlement. The oldest grave, that of Polly Fifield Littlehale, is dated 1839.

TOWNSHIP C



INTRODUCTION

Classed as "Wild Land," Township C borders on Franklin County and lies east of Upton and north of Andover. Since most of the township is occupied by Lower Richardson Lake, its architecture has been strongly influenced by seasonal recreation, an activity that dates back to the 1840s. With the construction of the Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad in 1895, the general vicinity became a highly popular retreat for sportsmen from major east coast cities. Township C remains a semi-isolated locality with a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery.

T-2. LAKEWOOD CAMPS

1878 and later. West Shore of Lower Richardson Lake

Located adjacent to Middle Dam, a wood and concrete structure (ca. 1875, 1885) built to regulate the flow of water from the Richardson Lakes into Rapid River and thence into Umbagog Lake, Lakewood Camps began as a single log structure erected by fishermen in 1878. Originally reached by a "carry road" from Umbagog, which in turn could be crossed by steamer from the Upton shoreline, the isolated site was first developed by Joshua G. Rich, a trapper and guide who built a cabin (no longer extant) for visiting sportsmen near this site about 1845. In the 1880s, in response to a steady influx of hunting and fishing enthusiasts, several more log camps were erected, and a substantial hotel called "Angler's Retreat" was constructed about 1890. Operated for a half-century by the venerable Captain Edward R. Coburn, the hotel was complimented by a large pier which sported an



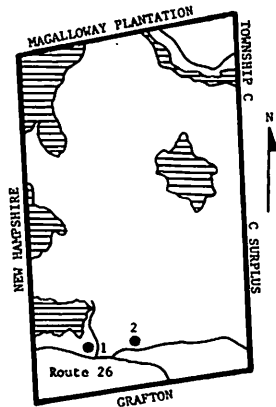
end pavilion and a miniature railway for hauling baggage to the hotel. For many years, the pier served a fleet of small lake steamers which stopped for passengers from the Rangeley area at "Upper Dam," several miles north, and at "South Arm," where stage lines arrived daily from Andover and points south.

In 1957, a fire destroyed the hotel and several log camps, but today thirteen of the original weathered structures remain, in addition to a replacement lodge built in 1958. Though the surrounding houses at Middle Dam have seen various interior alterations over the years, the entire grouping ranks high in historic importance as a typical Maine inland retreat.

A short distance west of Lakewood Camps and just off the Carry Road is "Forest Lodge," one-time home of author Louise Dickinson Rich, whose book *We Took to the Woods* (1942) portrayed the wilderness life she and others found in this portion of Oxford County. The structure dates to ca. 1875.

Along the shoreline of Upper and Lower Richardson Lakes are numerous "cottages," impressive examples of a once-common building type on the county's larger waterbodies. A few large storage sheds with "marine railways" also exist, remnants of an earlier time when local communication was limited to water transportation.

UPTON



INTRODUCTION

One of Oxford County's smallest towns, Upton began its official existence in the late eighteenth century when early maps of the region listed it as "Township B." In 1804, the mountainous tract was purchased from Massachusetts by out-of-state land speculators and in the next few decades was re-sold several times. Previous to 1823, only a few trappers and hunters had erected crude shelters here, but in that year Ezra Hoyt of Rumford came north through Andover to clear the township's first farmstead. Soon, roads were opened to Errol, New Hampshire, and Newry, Maine, and settlement on Upton's rocky hillsides began in earnest. In 1840 the township became "Plantation B" under a legislative act that permitted communities too small to be organized as towns to receive "plantation" status, thus allowing residents the right to vote in all elections. With an ever-increasing population encouraged mostly by farming and lumbering opportunities, the plantation was incorporated as the town of "Upton" in 1860. The town may have been named for the Massachusetts community of the same name.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, local agriculture declined; at the same time, the Umbagog Lake region was becoming well known for its hunting and fishing potential, and several area farmsteads were eventually converted into hotels. Before the turn-of-the-century, lake steamers plied the waters of Umbagog, carrying guests who arrived by train at Bethel and took a stage through the spectacular notch in Grafton (a town settled in 1834 by James Brown, and now classed as "Wild Land") to one of several hostelrys at Upton. Though outdoor recreation remains a part of the town's economy, farming has ceased entirely, being replaced in importance with timber-harvesting under the direction of large paper companies.

Upton's only village, at "Upton Corner" on present-day Route 26, was long the community's commercial heart. Its decline as a social center was made permanent when a fire destroyed much of the hamlet in 1959.

Upton's population in 1880 totaled 245 people (its highest number of residents was in 1910 when 306 people lived here); in 1980, only 66 people made their homes in this scenic western Maine town.



Upton Hill School

U-1. UPTON VILLAGE

Late nineteenth century. Route 26

The historic grouping at "Upton Hill," or "Upton Corner," comprises four buildings, one private and three public, significant remnants of a once-prosperous rural county village. The four structures occupy an important site at the junction of Route 26 and Mill Road; the impressive and well-known vista of Umbagog Lake and the mountain ranges to the north and east is slowly being erased by nearby tree growth.

The largest structure in the group, the former Upton Hill School (ca. 1899) is, like the others, of simple wood frame construction with clapboard sheathing on the exterior. It once served as a place of instruction for upper grades in its two large classrooms. The lower story is fronted by an open porch on the Mill Road facade, and the hipped roof is surmounted with an open belfry. The building now houses municipal offices for the tiny community.

Across the road is the Upton Union Church built in 1874. Still used for infrequent church services by a small parish, the vernacular structure displays a projecting pavilion with open belfry and short spire, tall multi-paned windows, and a pair of symmetrically-placed entrance doors.



"Ladies Aid Building" (l), Upton Union Church



Upton Grange Hall

Next to the church is a plain one-story structure (ca. 1870) with an open porch on its gable end. Known today as the "Ladies Aid Building," the structure was long used as the town library but was built as the Upton Hill schoolhouse. It was moved from its former site across the road when the larger schoolhouse was constructed.

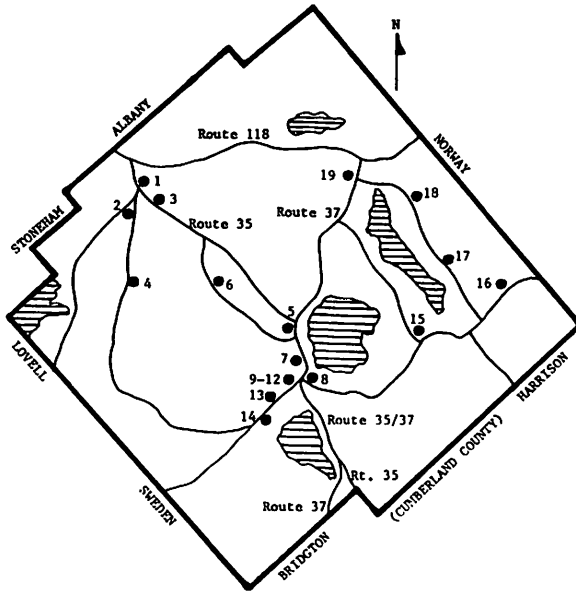
To the north is the former Upton Grange Hall, originally built about 1902 by local carpenter James Bragg as a "spruce gum factory." Capped with a hip roof that extends over additions to the north and south ends, the unusual structure was sold to the now-defunct grange in 1911.

U-2. OTIS H. ABBOTT HOUSE

ca. 1845. East B Hill Road

This high-posted Cape, located a short distance south of the village of "Upton Corner" on the road to Andover, was constructed in the 1840s by Otis H. Abbott, a local blacksmith who was active in town affairs and served in the state legislature. His farmstead, including barns and a shed connected to the house, is one of the few built on the East B Hill Road and remains the finest nineteenth century example of its type in the town. The house's five-bayed facade displays a simple sidelighted entrance doorway and windows with later two-over-two paned sash. To each side of the massive center chimney are gabled dormers with original six-over-six light windows.

WATERFORD



INTRODUCTION

The town of Waterford was created as a result of a 1774 grant made by the General Court of Massachusetts to the descendants of a company of Massachusetts soldiers involved in a 1690 expedition against the French in Canada. A previous grant of 1735, made to these same men from Middlesex and Worcester counties, was located at the site of present-day Henniker, New Hampshire, then known as "Number Six" or "Toddstown." When a Royal declaration settling the boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire left twenty-eight Massachusetts-granted townships under the Granite State's control, the proprietors re-petitioned and received a grant seven miles square in the District of Maine. In May of 1774 an outline map of the town was made, and later that summer Joseph Frye of "Pequawket" (Fryeburg) lead a group whose responsibility it was for the creation of an all-important lot and range map. A year later, David McWain of Bolton, Massachusetts, journeyed through the wilderness north of Bridgton, cleared a small farmstead east of "Long Pond" (now McWain Pond), and became Waterford's first settler.

Within the first decade of Waterford's original granting, numerous other men, particularly from the Massachusetts towns of Harvard, Stow, Northborough, Rowley, and Bolton, journeyed into the western Maine foothills to establish

agrarian livelihoods. Among the first arrivals after McWain were Daniel Barker, Jonathan Robbins, Aseph Brown, and America, Africa, Europe, and Hannibal Hamlin (brothers of Paris Hill's Dr. Cyrus Hamlin), all of whom came in 1783. The road from North Bridgton to "Waterford Flat" was the first built in town, probably in 1787. It followed the old "Scoggin Trail" through South Waterford and was extended by 1789 over present-day Plummer Hill into the northern part of town. The first saw mill was erected about 1789 near the northern end of Bear Pond on Mill Brook; Ezra Jewell's grist mill, built further upstream about a year later, provided an additional and persuasive argument for continued settlement. The abundant potential for early water-powered mills is reflected in the town's continued use of the plantation name "Waterford" at the time of incorporation in 1797.

Farming provided the economic mainstay during Waterford's first century-and-a-half; lumbering and the operation of small, diversified mills were also instrumental in leading to the town's rapid development as an active trading and agricultural center before 1850. In the second half of the nineteenth century, large corn canneries and apple-producing businesses thrived in certain parts of the town. To augment the many existing inns and boarding houses, several large summer hotels were eventually added; in later years (beginning in 1913), a profusion of youth-oriented summer camps continued what had by then become a well-established tradition. While the town never came to be located on one of the county's several railroad lines, it did serve during much of the nineteenth century as a center for the region's early stage routes. As a result, Waterford was able to take full advantage of its valuable scenic and architectural resources in drawing summer visitors to the town. Like the county villages at Bethel Hill and Paris Hill, the "Flat" contributed much to western Oxford County's role as a popular tourist spot and stopping-off point on the route to the central White Mountain area.

Much of the self-pride still evident in the town's character may be due, in large part, to the numerous individuals who, after departing this lake-dotted township, achieved prominence in national and international circles. Foremost among these are two nineteenth century figures, the Reverend Cyrus Hamlin and the noted humorist and lecturer Charles Farrar Browne ("Artemus Ward"). After receiving his education at Bridgton Academy, Bowdoin College, and Bangor Theological Seminary, Hamlin began a career as a missionary, culminating in the founding of Robert College at Istanbul, Turkey. Returning to Maine in 1877, Hamlin became a professor at Bangor Theological Seminary and three years later was appointed president of Middlebury College in Vermont. Charles Farrar Browne worked as a printer in Norway and Skowhegan, Maine, newspaper offices before becoming associate editor in 1857 of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Browne began writing a series of humorous articles soon after this, under the pen name "Artemus Ward"; before his untimely death in 1867 at the age of thirty-three, Browne established himself as the leading comic lecturer of the day.

The town of Waterford contains some of the county's finest late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century architecture, including important transitional and verna-

cular structures. As opposed to the vacuum in which many of the county's valuable historic and architectural gems exist, Waterford's built environment includes appropriate rural or neighborhood settings in a majority of cases. The Waterford Historical Society, founded in 1964, has made a wealth of local material available through its highly successful publications program. Its recently acquired Mary Gage Rice Museum is located in the heart of "Waterford Flat," one of the county's finest preserved nineteenth century villages.

Waterford currently maintains four separate villages, each with a post office established during the nineteenth century. East Waterford remains the smallest population center, with North Waterford, Waterford Village, and South Waterford containing approximately the same number of residents. The population of the town in 1880 was 1161. One hundred years later it had dropped to 951.



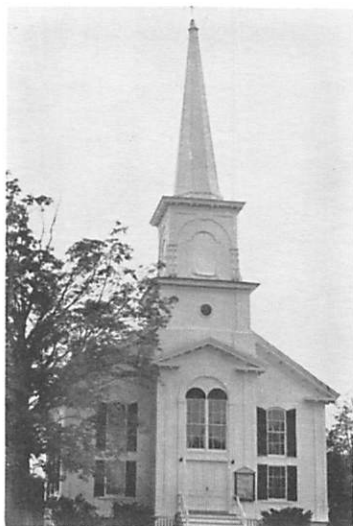
W-1. RICE TAVERN ("Forest House")

ca. 1790s and later. Route 35 at North Waterford Village

Originally built as a private residence but opened to the public by Peter C. Moshier around 1850 as a hotel, portions of this Colonial style structure may date into the 1790s, a time when few settlers had cleared farmsteads in the northernmost part of Waterford. Notable for its size and simple lines, the building was purchased around the time of the Civil War by John F. Rice and reopened as the "Forest House." Rice also ran a stage line from Conway, New Hampshire, to Winthrop, Maine, and naturally made his hotel one of its convenient stops. Spared by a fire that destroyed much of North Waterford Village in January of 1900, the hotel continued in operation under the management of Rice's grandchildren well into this century. The extremely long, clapboard-covered building next experienced a period of decline as a tenement but during the late 1970s was restored to

its nineteenth century appearance and returned to use as a restaurant/hotel. Filling an important niche in the area's social history, the Rice Tavern is one of the few surviving pre-Civil War hotels in Oxford County.

South of the Tavern and on the same side of Route 35 is a vernacular Greek Revival store with two-story inset porch under a pedimented gable. Also spared by the 1900 fire, the building most likely dates to around 1845-50. The schoolhouse beyond, now used as the village post office, was raised in 1901 to replace one that burned.



W-2. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1860-61. Route 35 at North Waterford Village

Situated on the western edge of the village Common, the North Waterford Congregational Church is a well-executed example of the Italianate style in a rural context. Begun in 1860 for a group of local residents who had formerly worshipped at the Waterford Village Church (see W-5), the building was designed by Bethel architect Thomas Holt and raised under the supervision of contractor George Hobson. The Italianate influence is seen in the pair of round-arch windows set in a recessed arch above the double-doored entry, in the slightly arched windows around the main block, in the bracketed cornice, and in the belfry's arched moldings and openings. The structure also boasts paneled corner pilasters and heavy wooden scrollwork at the corners of the belfry. Built along lines similar to those of the Congregational Church at Andover (see A-6) but taking advantage of a wider variety of design elements, the North Waterford

Church has a tall eight-sided spire that from this hillside location can be seen for miles.

For many years, beginning in 1850, a small agricultural exhibition now known as "The World's Fair" was held on the Common between the church and present Route 35. In 1928, when the fair association incorporated, new fairgrounds were cleared southwest of the church on a slight rise above the Irving Green Road. In the tradition of the county's once-numerous town-sponsored fairs, this exhibition represents the strong ties with agriculture still evident in this part of Maine.



W-3. ODD FELLOWS HALL (Waterford Historical Society)
ca. 1904. Route 35 at North Waterford Village

Built soon after a disastrous fire destroyed much of the village of North Waterford, the former Odd Fellows Hall was erected about 1904 to house the functions of a local fraternal order organized in 1875. Though active for several decades, the group slowly lost members until in the 1950s it was decided to combine ranks with a lodge in nearby Norway. In 1960 the vernacular two-story structure was sold to the Daughters of Rebekah who had also used the building and had formed in 1877. In 1973, the Rebekahs donated the building to the Waterford Historical Society, which until that time had displayed its collections and held many of its meetings in the Bear Mountain Library building (see W-9) at South Waterford. The Historical Society, organized in 1964, currently maintains an exhibit area, meeting space, and small archives of Waterford-related materials at the site.

Below the Historical Society headquarters is the Waterford Grange Hall, a vernacular structure built before 1910 and originally used as a stable. Across the road stands a small but interesting late Gothic Revival residence displaying pointed-arch windows, corner quoins, and an elaborately bracketed porch. Above

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Bethel Historical Society
BETHEL, MAINE 04217

the former lodge building are several houses of local design interest including a high-posted Greek Revival Cape and a vernacular Queen Anne structure with a shingle-covered corner tower crowned with a conical roof.



W-4. SAMUEL WARREN HOUSE

1800. Irving Green Road off Route 35

Built by the founding member of one of Waterford's most influential nineteenth century families, the Samuel Warren House is of architectural significance as one of the finest wood frame hip-roofed houses in Oxford County. Interestingly, the building conforms to the earlier, more massive forms of the Georgian style rather than to the vertical emphasis and lighter details of the Federal style, just then reaching its peak of popularity along the Maine coast. The builder's father, William Warren, became Norridgewock's first settler in 1772 but was drowned two years later in the "great eddy" below Skowhegan Falls. Mrs. Warren and children returned to the comfort of family in Massachusetts, but after coming-of-age, young Samuel returned to the Kennebec where he learned the cooper's trade. At the age of twenty, in 1786, he purchased half a lot (forty acres) in the northern part of Waterford, cleared fifteen acres, constructed "a little hut made of bark," and purchased corn and supplies at Bethel Hill, fourteen miles away. Capitalizing on the need for a brick mason in the new settlement, Warren established a yard on his property and constructed many of the first brick chimneys in Waterford, Lovell, and Albany. Returning to his cooper's craft in winter, Warren was able to stockpile enough money to build and pay for his foursquare center-chimneyed house only fourteen years after his arrival.

The Warren House retains its distinctive lines in essentially unaltered condition, though tradition holds that the entablatured Greek Revival entrance doorway and louvered shutters were added sometime around 1840. The interior

shows evidence of fine workmanship, particularly in the front stairhall and in one room containing field paneled walls.

The centennial *History* of the town, published in 1879, was largely the work of Warren's sons, Samuel Warren, Jr. and the Reverend William Warren, and of his grandson, Henry P. Warren.

W-5. "WATERFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT"

Routes 35 and 37 (NR)

The Waterford Historic District encompasses most of the village of "Waterford Flat" (as it is locally called) and is second only to Paris Hill in its depiction of a remarkably unchanged nineteenth century Oxford County village. Located on the western shore of Keoka Lake (formerly Thomas Pond) and on a level plain (hence the name) at the foot of Mount Tire'em, this nationally recognized district includes structures dating from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries in a compatible and cohesive grouping. Included within the boundaries of the village are a church, school, library, lodge hall, town house, and general store, as well as a small hotel and several residential structures. The District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



Waterford Town House

At the southern end of the village and on the eastern side of the highway stands the Waterford Town House, a one-and-a-half story vernacular Greek Revival frame structure built in 1843. Many of the timbers beneath its clapboarded surface date back to the town's first meetinghouse, a two-and-a-half story frame structure with porch completed on nearby "Kingman Hill" (on the present Plummer Hill Road) in 1802. Built at a time when Congregationalism was still the "established"

religion in most of New England, the meetinghouse was later the focus of a debate brought about by several factors, namely the establishment of other religious denominations within the town (especially the Methodists and Baptists), the separation of church and state made final by the ratification of the state constitution in 1820, and the change in local population patterns brought about by the growth of South Waterford Village. Regarding this population shift, the Congregationalists abandoned the meetinghouse to secular use in 1837 and built a late Federal style church near the center of the "Flat" (see below). The Town House is a rather plain three-bay structure with a transomed double-doored entry, twelve-over-twelve paned windows, and a closed pediment in the facade gable end.

Beside the Town House is the Bradbury House, a gable-roofed five-bay Federal style structure dating to around 1825. This symmetrically-arranged house with ell and barn is most notable as the home from 1920 to 1973 of Dr. Roswell E. Hubbard, a local medical practitioner who served the Waterford area for over half a century. The house has seen only slight alterations including those made after a fire in the 1950s. The main entry on the street facade retains its fine louvered fan and sidelights.



Knight Library

Beyond the vernacular L. G. Robinson House (ca. 1850) is the Knight Library, built in 1911-12. In 1899 "The Ladies Library Association of Waterford" was incorporated and maintained a few shelves of books in the Ambrose Knight Store (the former Increase Robinson Law Office located just north of the present Library) operated by sisters Sarah and Carrie Knight. In response to growing patronage, the sisters began construction of a stone structure on the site of an earlier Ambrose Knight Store, but both died within a few weeks of each other in August of 1911. Undaunted, the library association soon reorganized, and construction of the library building was completed in August of 1912. In October of 1937, fire destroyed the nearby Knight Store and heavily damaged the Library.

Reconstruction of a new second story atop the original first story walls of uncoursed rubble stone was completed in 1938 to designs by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens of Portland. The design as then built features a frame second story with gambrel roof and shingled exterior.

Next to the Knight Library is the Mary Gage Rice Museum, moved to the site of the former Knight Store in 1979 and now operated as a museum of New England and local artifacts by the Waterford Historical Society. The building, as originally constructed, was an open shed built about 1860 on the nearby Gage-Rice House property (see below). Enclosed with clapboarded walls broken by pairs of multi-paned windows framed together, the structure eventually became the private museum of one of Waterford's most enthusiastic "collectors." The large stone chimney on the west end of the long, rectangular building is a replacement of one that could not be moved.



"Artemus Ward House" (ca. 1925)

North of the Rice Museum and beyond the side-hall Greek Revival Robinson-Kimball House (ca. 1850) and the site of the three-and-a-half story gable-roofed Waterford House hotel (burned 1885) is the Federal style Levi Brown House (1805), also known as "The Artemus Ward House." One of the oldest structures within the district, the Brown House was the boyhood home of Charles Farrar Browne (1834-67), known by his pen name "Artemus Ward." An internationally celebrated humorist and favorite of Lincoln, Browne served as a primary inspiration for Mark Twain's earliest writings. He frequently returned to Waterford to visit his widowed mother and, upon his death, was buried in the family lot at Elm Vale Cemetery (see W-14). The Brown House, which until recently was enclosed by a white picket fence (apparently nineteenth century), features a two-story five-bay facade with windows of twelve-over-eight panes and an entablatured doorway with semi-elliptical fan, framing pilasters, and late nineteenth century door with frosted glass panels. Recently refurbished, the house stands near a large detached barn where professionally performed theater, based on the writings and life of Browne, is frequently held.



L. R. Rounds Store (ca. 1917)

The L. R. Rounds Store is significant as one of the least-altered wooden nineteenth century commercial structures in Oxford County. Built before 1850 with portions dating as early as 1802, the two-and-a-half story gable-to-the-street vernacular structure has a three-bay facade with large banks of windows and an inset double-doored entry on the first story. The small lean-to section with high false front on the north side of the building has contained the village post office for over a century and dates to before 1870. The store has been operated by the Rounds family since at least 1909.

North of the Rounds Store and between it and Kedar (Kingman) Brook are the Stevens House and the Maxfield House. Both structures consist of a main block of two-and-a-half stories with an attached ell and barn; evidence points to a construction date of about 1850 for that nearest the store (Stevens), but the Maxfield House may date to around 1830. During the late nineteenth century, the Stevens House was the home of Dr. Charles L. Wilson, a Newfield, Maine, native who provided medical service here and throughout the surrounding countryside. The house is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival structure, has a sidelighted entrance door, and has seen numerous minor alterations.

The Maxfield House is a traditional five-bay gable-roofed structure with six-over-six paned sash and a sidelighted entrance doorway. While it, too, has seen many remodelings over its long history, the house is important both as one of the town's most notable stage stops and as the home of prominent stage-line operator Eliakim Maxfield. Congenial and well-liked, Maxfield took over the tri-weekly four-horse stage on the Waterford-to-Portland run around 1830; this stage was soon after connected with one (also under Maxfield's management) that ran to Bethel Hill from the "Flat" on the same days. In later years, Maxfield bought out the Fryeburg and Paris sections of the Augusta, Fryeburg, and Concord Stage Line and ran it successfully until his death. His son, Horace Maxfield, continued to run this line until the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad was opened through Fryeburg in 1871.



Gage-Rice House

Further to the east, between Route 37 (Norway Road) and the Kimball or Rice Hill Road is the handsome Federal style Gage-Rice House built by Bethel native Dr. Leander Gage in 1817. A medical practitioner and influential town father at Waterford until his death in 1842, Gage constructed his large five-bay two-and-a-half story house at a well-selected site overlooking much of the village. Notable exterior features are the original nine-over-six paned windows, the fine Federal doorway with transom fanlight, the attached carriage shed with wide, arched doorways, and a connected barn with hip-roof. A large clapboard-covered Greek Revival barn with boldly formed pediment under a low-pitched roof also stands on the property; it probably dates to around 1825. The landscaped grounds enclosed by stone walls and wooden fences provide a particularly fine setting for this important early nineteenth century residence. Additionally, the house is still in the hands of Gage descendants.

South and west of the Gage-Rice House is the Congregational Church parsonage, a two-and-a-half story transitional Greek Revival/Italianate structure built in the early 1870s by Leander Gage Stone, a prominent local carpenter. The house has a main entry to the side of the three-bay facade, an attached shed and barn, and walls sheathed in clapboards. The house has served the same purpose since its construction.

Beyond a small story-and-a-half frame structure once used as a drug store and later as the home of local writer Charlotte Morse Fillebrown, is the Leander Gage Stone House built about 1870 by Stone, who also built the nearby parsonage on a similar plan. The house is a tall two-bay transitional Greek Revival/Italianate structure with a steeply-pitched gable roof, two interior chimneys, a first story bay window, and a door hood supported by large scroll-like brackets. The house has an attached ell and barn, and a two-story side porch supported with bracketed square posts.

Behind the Stone House and a short distance up Route 35 (North Waterford

Road) is a story-and-a-half frame structure currently used as a fire station but originally a one-room schoolhouse, probably the oldest such structure remaining in the town. The first schools in Waterford were authorized in a town vote of 1797; the buildings themselves were not completed until around 1800. Surprisingly, the village of Waterford Flat at first had no school, the people there being "already blessed with a dangerous number of privileges — a tavern, post office, and a church within reasonable distance." About 1825 the twelfth school district was formed and this small clapboarded building was erected. Long used in later years (after the construction ca. 1850 of another school still standing east of the Gage-Rice House on Route 37) as the carpentry shop of Leander Gage Stone and of his son, Edgar L. Stone, the school is also significant as the site of the early education of Charles Farrar Browne ("Artemus Ward"). The building originally stood just north of the Leander Gage Stone House at the foot of the Rice Hill Road.

On the opposite site of Route 35 is the Wilkins House, a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate house with a Colonial Revival doorway and a large attached wood frame clapboarded barn. The well-maintained house was the former home of Miss Susan Hamlin Wilkins, a local teacher who devoted her retirement years to community projects. The Wilkins Community House on the Plummer Hill Road (see below) was dedicated in her honor.

Below the Wilkins House and on the opposite side of Kedar Brook is the Stone House, a story-and-a-half Cape with an Italianate doorway overhang and Colonial Revival dormers. Though the house does not appear on the village map of 1858, there is evidence which points to a construction date as early as 1810.



"Lake House" hotel

The Lake House and its Annex, which front on a small village Common, date back to the earliest years of Waterford Village. Eli Longley came to Waterford from Bolton, Massachusetts, in 1789 and erected a log dwelling between the present

Congregational Church and the former Douglass Seminary building further up the Plummer Hill Road (the latter structure, though greatly reduced in size, is significant as having been built by Waterford's first physician, Dr. Stephen Cummings, ca. 1795; it was later expanded to a three-story mansard-roofed structure and became a popular "finishing school" named in honor of Waterford's second Congregational minister, the Reverend John A. Douglass). The first settler at Waterford Flat, Longley then owned all of the area now included within the Historic District. By 1797 so many calls were being made on his hospitality by passing travellers that he moved down the hill and erected a one-story house as Waterford's first tavern. A few years later he added a larger two-story wing and the older section became an ell; considerably altered, this early inn is the present broad-gabled Lake House. With an eye to the future, Longley planned for the village he knew would spring up. He laid out the nearby Common, built the town's first "potash" in 1800, provided quarters at his tavern for early town meetings (1797 and later), and subdivided his land holdings opposite the tavern, selling lots to new settlers as they arrived. In 1802, he constructed a store that forms part of the present L. R. Rounds Store across the street; about this time, Longley also opened the third post office in the county, the others being in Fryeburg and Paris.

In 1817, Longley sold his inn to Peter Warren who in 1847 sold it to Dr. Calvin Farrar. Taking advantage of a nearby mineral spring, Farrar opened a very successful "hydropathic spa." By the late 1850s the establishment was being operated by Dr. William P. Shattuck as the Maine Hygienic Institute — "a hospital exclusively for lady patients, employing eclectic treatment"; Shattuck's business did much to introduce Waterford as a summer resort. The structure continues to function as a hotel today.

The Lake House currently sports a portico-like facade of five-bays with paired square porch posts, large scroll-like brackets, and sawn decorative trim. The building retains ells and additions stretching back from the two-room-deep main block.

Between the Lake House and the Annex is a tent-roofed Italianate gazebo built around 1860 and once connected to both buildings by a latticework-enclosed walkway. Though the walkways are now gone, a stone fountain remains inside. The Annex building at the corner of Routes 35 and 37 was built originally as a store, probably around 1850. The two-and-a-half story clapboard-covered building also boasts a variety of unusual window treatments and decorative Victorian "icing."

Beyond the Brown House (ca. 1850), a vernacular Greek Revival house of two-and-a-half stories, is the First Congregational Church, standing on the east side of the Plummer Hill Road. Though at first glance this fine Federal style church with domed tower appears to have early nineteenth century origins, the building was actually constructed in 1928 from designs by Portland architects John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens. The original Congregational Church, built in 1837 to replace an 1802 meetinghouse which stood further north on the Plummer Hill Road (see above), was similar to the present structure, except that instead of a portico, it had a modest pavilion with paired doorways capped with



First Congregational Church

semi-circular fans. On May 3, 1928 the wood frame church and an adjacent parish house were destroyed by fire. Masterfully recreated in almost every detail, the 1928 version has tall side windows capped with semi-circular louvered fans, a two-stage belfry with sophisticated moldings, and a twelve hundred pound Revere Foundry bell, recast in 1929 from one which fell at the time of the fire.

Next to the Church is the Colonial Revival Wilkins Community House, a story-and-a-half frame structure built in 1928, again from plans furnished by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens of Portland. It was formally dedicated to the memory of local resident Susan Hamlin Wilkins on November 23, 1929.



Mount Tire'em Masonic Hall (ca. 1920)

Nearly opposite the First Congregational Church is the vernacular Greek

Revival Mount Tire'em Masonic Hall built by Leander Gage Stone in 1879. A local Masonic order was organized at the Flat in 1866 and included many of the village's most prominent businessmen. The gable-roofed hall, used in years past for theatrical performances and silent movies, appears to be only two-and-a-half stories in height; extremely tall windows on the three functional floors conceal the building's actual height of almost four normal stories. Though somewhat neglected in recent years, the Masonic Hall remains essentially unaltered.



Ambrose A. Knight House

At the corner of the Plummer Hill Road and Routes 23 and 37, beyond two vernacular Greek Revival residences dating to around 1840-50, is the Ambrose A. Knight House (ca. 1810), the most architecturally outstanding structure within the district. Built by an early village store owner, this ambitious center-chimneyed house is undoubtedly the finest surviving "high style" Federal residence constructed entirely of wood in Oxford County. Marked by a beautifully-designed fan doorway with a well proportioned Palladian window above, the house is at once pretentious and refined. Contributing to the house's handsome elegance are the finely-wrought cornice detailing and geometric door moldings found on the main facade. Most probably the unknown builder was influenced by either existing structures nearer the coastline or perhaps by one of several design books then available. Additionally and most importantly, the Palladian window was rarely used in Oxford County houses before the Colonial Revival era; the Knight House seems to be the county's only extant early nineteenth century house to employ this particular window treatment.

The interior of the Knight House is as remarkable as its exterior. The large, high-ceilinged rooms with as many as twenty-four panes in each window echo the spaciousness of the exterior arrangement. In addition to interior shutters and examples of finely-carved woodwork, the large front entry hall contains a graceful triple-run staircase. In its rich exterior detail and well-preserved condition, the

Knight House is an outstanding architectural landmark in the northwest corner of Maine.

Next to the Knight House and completing the run of structures on the western side of Routes 35 and 37 is the Joseph Hale House, a story-and-a-half Greek Revival Cape built most likely around 1840. Currently undergoing remodeling that will convert it into a year-round residence, the well-proportioned house was the home of Lieutenant Joseph Hale, a local shoemaker and farmer. Hale's father, Benjamin Hale, was one of the town's earliest settlers, coming to the "Plummer Neighborhood" from Harvard, Massachusetts, in 1785.

W-6. PLUMMER HOUSE

ca. 1794. Plummer Hill Road

This wood frame house sheathed in "feathered" clapboards stands at the northern end of the "Plummer Neighborhood" section of Waterford; the road on which the house is located was at one time the major route to the northern half of town and to nearby Lovell. Dating from the mid-1790s, the house was probably constructed by Samuel Plummer, a local farmer and carpenter who came to Waterford from Rowley, Massachusetts. Displaying architectural characteristics similar to those of the David McWain House (see W-17), but having an unusual end wall design that is strikingly like that of the Bassett Tavern in nearby Lovell (see L-21), the structure is a remarkable and somewhat unusual survivor from the late eighteenth century. The interior of the building contains original wainscoting, wide floor boards, five operating fireplaces, and a triple-run staircase set against the massive brick chimney. The exterior has windows of nine-over-six and six-over-six panes, and a simple front doorway with transom.

W-7. A. S. HAPGOOD HOUSE

ca. 1870 and later. Routes 35 and 37

This wood frame story-and-a-half vernacular Victorian house, standing about halfway between the villages of Waterford Flat and South Waterford, began as an unpretentious farm home. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, its owner chose to embellish the structure with triangular dormers, pointed-arch windows, and a two stage gable-roofed tower with a variety of wall surface treatments and window types. While the house follows no particular architectural style in this rather eclectic reconstruction, it nevertheless typifies widespread though naive attempts to capture Victorian tastes in architecture. The house, with its open porch along the facade, features exterior trim painted in a way that accentuates these highly whimsical additions.



W-8. METHODIST CHURCH ("Wesleyan Chapel")

1845. Junction of Routes 35 and 37 and Passaconaway Road

This modified Greek Revival style church with a distinctive pedimented facade was built in 1845 by the local Methodists to replace one that had burned the year before. The Methodists were served by missionaries from the "Poland circuit" as early as 1802 and, despite the strong hold of the local Congregational Church, were organized in Waterford as an established church body eight years later. An earlier church was built a mile south at "Mutiny Corner" in 1818 but after several years was abandoned due to its small size. A much larger edifice, built by John Sanderson and patterned after the Universalist Church at Norway (see N-28), was built on the site in 1836. Its replacement, built nine years later, is a well-scaled but restrained interpretation of then-popular Greek Revival forms in architecture. The clapboard-covered building features a pair of centrally-located entrance doorways, tall rectangular windows containing four-over-four lights framed in smaller panes of frosted glass, and an open belfry with paired corner pilasters, roof balustrade, and sixteen-sided dome. A large part of the interior woodwork, including the pews, is original.

W-9. BEAR MOUNTAIN LIBRARY (Abbott House)

ca. 1845-50. Off Routes 35 and 37 at South Waterford Village

Typical of several Federal/Greek Revival buildings built in the county during the first half of the nineteenth century (the most notable example being the

rebuilt Oxford County Courthouse at Paris Hill Village; see P-2), the Bear Mountain Library features a two-and-a-half story gabled facade with an inset porch at the first story level. This particular feature is made more interesting through the use of simple wooden supporting columns (now partly enclosed by a low porch wall) spaced evenly before a three-bay facade of flush boarding.

Long used as a store and post office (with residence above), the structure became the home of the village library soon after its formation in 1928. The second floor of the main structure was long the home of Flora Hamlin Abbott, a founder and benefactor of the Waterford Historical Society, organized here in 1964. Until its move to North Waterford in 1973, the Society maintained an exhibit and collections area in the second floor ell and barn (the latter now removed). The Bear Mountain Library is significant for its long associations with this important Oxford County village.



W-10. WATSON SALT BOX FACTORY ("Cider Mill")

ca. 1825-45. Off Routes 35 and 37 at South Waterford Village

One of the last remaining early nineteenth century industrial structures in Oxford County, the "Cider Mill" stands on the east bank of Mill Brook just west of the present South Waterford Post Office. Located on the site of a saw mill constructed in 1795 by Isaac Smith and a carding mill raised in 1810 by Josiah Farrar, the present structure is a reconstruction of George K. Hamlin's saw mill which replaced the carding mill after several years. As William Watson's Salt Box Factory, which it remained until well after the turn-of-the-century, the mill was one of many begun before the Civil War on this small but accessible stream. From Keoka Lake at Waterford Flat to Bear Pond below South Waterford were once located a foundry, a plaster mill, another carding mill, and a tannery. Waterford's first grist mill (ca. 1790) once stood just above where the Sweden Road leaves

Routes 35 and 37. Near the mouth of the stream, where it empties into Bear Pond, Jacob Gibson constructed the town's first (ca. 1789) saw mill. Now covered in wooden shingles but retaining its early lines and heavily-timbered frame, the mill was converted in this century to a cider-making establishment but currently serves as a seasonal residence.

W-11. HOUGHTON-HAMLIN HOUSE ("Oscar Brown Hotel")

ca. 1810, 1914. Off Routes 35 and 37 at South Waterford Village

Displaying a wide variety of architectural elements taken mainly from the Queen Anne style, this rambling shingle and clapboard-covered residence is one of the largest nineteenth century wood frame structures remaining at South Waterford. (Interestingly, this small village was long known as "Waterford City" for the once-numerous water-powered mills located nearby on Mill Brook.) Built around 1810 by local farmer and house joiner Abel Houghton, the structure (pictured in the 1977 history of the town) originally displayed the five-bay gable-roofed two-room-deep plan found so often in substantial late eighteenth and early nineteenth century county houses. A long shed with evenly spaced windows stood between the double-chimneyed house and a gable-to-the-street barn.

Opened around 1820 as a hotel, and known throughout much of the nineteenth century as the "Bear Mountain House" and later as "Oscar Brown's Hotel," the structure was remodeled in a vernacular Queen Anne style in 1914 by then-owner and local creamery-operator Walter K. Hamlin. The house now features a gambrel roof, bands of shingles, bay windows, and randomly-placed entries.

The immediate surroundings include several Federal period two-and-a-half story houses, as well as an early Cape once used as the village post office. Directly behind the Houghton-Hamlin House, on Mill Brook, stood the Hapgood Carding Mill, a wood frame structure moved and reconstructed at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, in 1963.

W-12. BEAR MOUNTAIN GRANGE HALL (Universalist Church)

1844, ca. 1867, 1900. Routes 35 and 37 at South Waterford Village

This massive wood frame vernacular Greek Revival style building has important associations with the town of Waterford developed as a result of a long period of use under a variety of roles. Though the clapboard-covered building is actually three-and-a-half stories high, its vertical emphasis is somewhat reduced through the use of large twelve-over-twelve paned sash at the second floor meeting hall level.

As a small sign in the gable pediment indicates, the building was once occupied by Universalists; it was begun in 1844 and dedicated as a church in November of

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1845. The local Universalist Society was formed in 1830, but sporadic meetings had been held during the previous ten-year period. Reaching its peak of popularity at the time the church was constructed, the group slowly dissolved and in 1867 sold the structure to several South Waterford businessmen. By 1875, when the town's centennial took place, the "lower part" was being utilized as a school, indicating that the original church had been raised (as supported by structural evidence) and a full story inserted beneath it.

In 1896 the Bear Mountain Grange, organized in 1874, purchased the building. Four years later, the present three-story extension was added for grange use while the lower front portion continued to house the village school (this arrangement lasted until 1949). Still occupied by an active grange, the building retains much of its nineteenth century character. The gable-end tower, which appears rather squat when compared with the building's size, was once surmounted by a belfry twice as high as that at present; the pyramidal roof also replaces an earlier multi-sided dome similar to that crowning the nearby Methodist Church tower (see W-8).

Between the Grange and a two-and-a-half story vernacular frame structure is the J. R. Hall House, a broad-roofed, low-posted Cape that was the home of a nineteenth century village cobbler. The building may date before 1800 and is probably the oldest at South Waterford Village. Across from the Hall House, on a prominent village corner, is the present Kimball Store, a story-and-a-half frame structure that in the nineteenth century was used as a blacksmith shop, among other things.

Directly across from the Grange Hall, the Captain Nathaniel Rounds House (ca. 1818-20 and later) is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival two-and-a-half story

house with connecting shed and barn. Rounds was a successful local blacksmith who came to Waterford from Buxton, Maine, in 1816.



W-13. WILLIAM MORSE HOUSE (Stanwood House)
ca. 1810. Sweden Road at South Waterford Village

This foursquare double-chimneyed house, though built during the height of the Federal period in Maine, displays the substantial proportions and symmetrical design of earlier Colonial or Georgian structures. With the exception of a semi-elliptical louvered fan and sidelights surrounding the formal entry, the house might have been constructed as early as the 1760s, though the only frame structures in the county at that time were limited to the town of Fryeburg.

The house's builder, William Morse, came with his family to Waterford from Stow, Massachusetts, during the first years of the nineteenth century. In 1817, Morse opened the large house as a hotel, probably the first such enterprise at "Waterford City" (see also W-11). A later owner, Albert Stanwood, was a prosperous Waterford businessman who owned a large bucket factory at the junction of the Sweden and Bear Pond roads further east. The house's notable features include a hip-roofed ell, returning gable-end cornices, and original fenestration of nine-over-six and twelve-over-eight paned sash. A set of large connected barns burned in the 1960s. The property is bounded on the west by a precisely-fitted cut granite wall built during the early nineteenth century by Charles Billings; the stone was hauled from the Temple Hill section of town.

Across the Sweden Road and further east stands the mansard-roofed Danley-Nelson House, a tall three-bay frame structure built in a style rarely seen in this part of the county. Probably built in the early 1850s but altered later in the century, the house displays a variety of window treatments and dormer types.



W-14. ELM VALE CEMETERY GATES

Late Nineteenth Century. Sweden Road at South Waterford

This pair of aesthetically pleasing and architecturally handsome wooden gates are unique and valuable reminders of the high regard in which Waterford residents have held their forebears. Long a source of pride and distinction, the triple-arched portals are constructed in wood, but in such a way as to simulate stone. While the bracketed column tops are reminiscent of Italianate decorative trim, the broad corbeled moldings and overall design probably derive from Romanesque Revival motifs, popular in the country from around 1840 to 1900.

Elm Vale Cemetery contains the remains of some of Waterford's most notable citizens, including first settler David McWain (see W-17) and the nineteenth century humorist Charles Farrar Browne (see W-5). The Cemetery may have been named for "Elm Vale Farm," the nineteenth century home of Mary Moody Emerson (aunt of Ralph Waldo Emerson) which once stood across the road. The Waterford gates, currently in need of sensitive preservation and restoration, are in form similar to another pair that once stood as entries to "Norway Pine Grove Cemetery" adjacent to the original Oxford County Fairgrounds (see P-22). The view of steep-sided Bear Mountain through the cemetery gates is exceptional.

W-15. "SUMNER STONE TAVERN"

ca. 1798 and later. Junction of Johnson and Passaconaway roads

Located at an important junction where two of Waterford's early roads intersect, the massive wood frame Sumner Stone Tavern is an imposing example of late eighteenth century domestic architecture; with its particularly fine doorway framed in sidelights and capped with a semi-circular wood fan set in a



wide entablature with projecting cornice, the house is also an important prototype for the rural adaptation of early Federal design.

Constructed by Moses Stone, an early Waterford settler, the two-and-a-half story, foursquare, clapboard-covered structure is additionally significant as one of the largest houses of its time and place. Coming to Waterford from Groton, Massachusetts, Moses Stone chose this site upon which to establish a farmstead; the present house was most likely preceded by a smaller residence, possibly of log construction.

During the early nineteenth century, the constant appearance of speculators, land agents, proprietors, and marketmen on the county's roads gave Waterford farmers repeated opportunities to lodge and feed travelers. Probably as a result, around 1825, Sumner Stone, then in his early twenties, opened this massive house as an inn. The double-chimneyed building, with its extensive nineteenth century sheds and barn intact, stands in near original condition today and recalls Waterford's earliest period of commercial activity.

West of the Stone Tavern, on the south side of the Passaconaway Road, stands the Cyrus Hamlin House, the boyhood home of an influential New England theologian and founder of Robert College at Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey. The present high-posted gable-roofed Cape may date as early as 1820, but an earlier portion, the actual birthplace site, was destroyed long ago. The father of the Reverend Cyrus Hamlin, Major Hannibal Hamlin, was a Revolutionary veteran who later became "high sheriff" for Oxford County. His twin brother, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, settled at Paris Hill Village and was the father of Lincoln's first term vice-president, Hannibal Hamlin (see P-2).

East of the Stone Tavern are several examples in wood of rustic gates, fencing, and accessory buildings on the grounds of Camp Waziyatah. Founded in 1922 by noted equestrienne and sportswoman Amy Faulkner, this youth-oriented recreational camp is typical in physical appearance to many still operating in the county.

W-16. EDWARD BAKER FARMSTEAD

ca. 1790s, ca. 1820. Baker Hill Road

This center-chimneyed, five-bay, Federal style house with extensive ell and vertically-sheathed gable-roofed barn was the home of early Waterford settler and Revolutionary veteran Edward Baker. Coming to Maine from Berlin, Massachusetts, soon after the town was established, Baker constructed what may have been a "saltbox-type" house at this site, for there are structural indications of such a design on the present interior. Records indicate a major rebuilding of the house about 1820; the attic level gable-wall jetty or overhang seems to be a holdover from the earlier, Colonial style design. The interior of the house features Federal style fireplace mantels and large sections of wall paneling possibly dating to the earlier construction. At the center of the five-bay facade is a sophisticated entrance doorway with semi-elliptical fan and framing pilasters. Surrounded by open fields and woods, the Baker Farmstead is a relatively unaltered monument to one of Waterford's earliest settlers.

**W-17. DAVID McWAIN HOUSE**

ca. 1793, ca. 1868. McWain Hill Road

A year after Waterford's first granting in 1774, David McWain arrived from Bolton, Massachusetts, to clear the first farmstead in the town. Venturing from Portland to Sebago Lake and then on to the "saw mill village" at Stevens Brook (Bridgton), McWain gathered supplies and pushed on to this well-situated upland site. Though he recorded erecting a small cabin that first year, "the difficulty of getting subsistence" caused him to return to Massachusetts for the winters of 1775 and '76. The spring of 1777 saw McWain's return, and despite a short growing season, he was able to remain permanently. By 1783, when several other

men had arrived, McWain was supplying the new settlers with grain until they could raise their own.

David McWain's second Waterford home, begun most likely in the early 1790s (the first frame house in Waterford was built by Ezra Jewell ca. 1792-93), is one of the finest remaining eighteenth century houses in Oxford County. In an excellent state of preservation, the two-and-a-half story house features a plain clapboarded exterior with small nine-over-six paned windows, transomed doorways, and raking gable-end eaves. Among the notable interior elements in the westernmost and oldest section are wide-board floors, three original fireplaces, early wall paneling, and simple but unaltered moldings. The second floor features a "ballroom" containing original lighting fixtures and wall benches. The present ell replaced an earlier shed section around 1868 and contains simplified Greek Revival molding.

The David McWain House is an important regional landmark that provides a significant link with the years immediately after the county's settlement. McWain died in 1825 at the age of seventy-three; he is buried alongside several of the town's other first settlers at Elm Vale Cemetery (see W-14).

W-18. JOSIAH PRIDE FARMSTEAD

ca. 1820, ca. 1865-75, 1899. McWain Hill Road

The Pride Farmstead is of historic and architectural importance both for its impressive physical appearance and for the fact that it is one of the oldest same-family-operated farms in Oxford County. Established in 1814 when Josiah Pride moved to this location at the northern end of McWain Pond from Westbrook, Maine, the farmstead grew from a modest two-and-a-half story house and barn into the present complex which includes an extensive two-and-a-half story addition to the original gable-roofed house, and several late nineteenth century outbuildings and barns. Formerly utilized for raising a variety of crops, the farmstead now houses dairy cattle. The one hundred foot barn topped with cupola was constructed in 1899 and is probably the largest nineteenth century barn extant in the town. The current operators of this well-maintained farmstead are sixth generation descendants of the original owner.

W-19. SPRINGER'S STORE

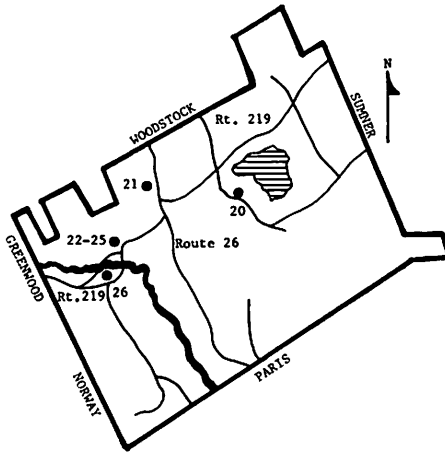
ca. 1890 and later. Route 37 at East Waterford Village

Long the site of the East Waterford post office (established October 7, 1878), Springer's Store is a vernacular Victorian commercial structure with a long tradition of serving the Waterford community. East Waterford was for many years occupied by only a few farmsteads and one or two mills, starting with a saw and grist mill built about 1809 by Jedediah Cailiff. In the last quarter of the nineteenth

century a large saw mill was constructed by Peter Haskell just south of the store at the foot of the present mill pond. East of the store, alongside the same waterway, once stood a prosperous chair factory. Today only minor traces of these early industrial structures exist. The Springer Store stands at the intersection of several roads and forms a focal point at what is now the smallest of Waterford's four villages. Its high false front and banks of large windows are typical of wooden commercial structures built in Maine during this period.

Until recently, a two-and-a-half-story vernacular Queen Anne structure dating to the turn-of-the-century stood on the western edge of the mill pond. It served as both a wood-working shop and dance hall during its long history.

WEST PARIS



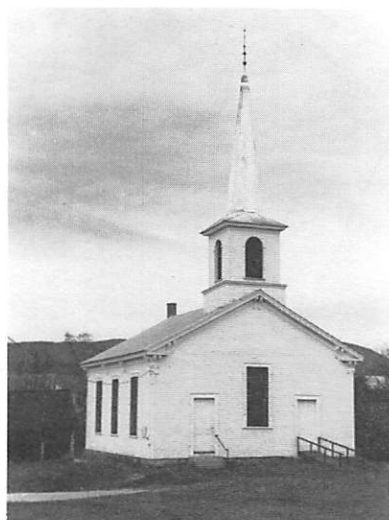
INTRODUCTION

Oxford County's newest town, West Paris was officially set off from the town of Paris on January 1, 1958. The community is divided by the Little Androscoggin River and consists of North and West Paris villages, the historic Snow's Falls area (site of an early Indian/White skirmish), and the cluster of buildings at the junction of Routes 219 and 26 known as "Trap Corner."

Undoubtedly, hillside farms sporting rough log houses existed in the vicinity as early as the 1790s (see Paris Introduction). A grist mill erected ca. 1800 by Ebenezer Hutchinson at the outlet of Moose Pond was probably the first industrial structure; North Paris Village grew up around the site. Farming was the great mainstay of the northern half of Paris before 1851, but in that year the construction of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad made expanded manufacturing and industry possible. Within a few years of the railroad's arrival, West Paris Village had begun to take its present form; the railroad station there served not only the northern part of Paris but also the southern portion of Woodstock and the western part of Sumner.

During the second half of the nineteenth century and on into the twentieth, the manufacture of furniture, both at West Paris Village and at Snow's Falls (where there was also a hotel, school, and store), was of major economic importance. A large number of Finnish immigrants, drawn into the area early in this century, have become an important part of the town's social fabric. The West Paris Historical Society, organized in 1980, conducts programs under which the town's valuable historic resources are examined and recorded.

Spurred on by the possible closing of the West Paris High School and the construction of new educational facilities at South Paris (to which West Paris students, ironically, are transported today), the citizens of West Paris voted to separate from the town of Paris in 1957. The town's population at the time of its silver anniversary was roughly 1,400 individuals.



W-20. "FEDERATED CHURCH"

1833, 1869. Morse Hill Road off Route 219 at North Paris

Built at a time when the village of North Paris was the only sizable community in the northern half of the town of Paris, this vernacular Italianate church, similar in form to church structures extant at Rumford Center and Rumford Point villages (see R-7 and R-9), was constructed by local Methodist and Baptist congregations in 1833; the original design has been attributed to local builder Samuel Jackson Durell.

Several accounts agree that the church was remodeled in 1869, at which time the subtle Italianate decorative trim and tall steeple above a belfry with round-arch openings were added. In addition, the Victorian window and door enframements seen today (almost duplicates of those on the former Oxford County Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall; see P-22) were most likely added at the same time.

The Methodists first organized in the town of Paris in 1815, and the North Paris Church, in its original form, was the first structure erected for this denomination. In the late nineteenth century, the Baptists assumed complete control of the

"Federated Church"; services under this particular denomination still take place in the building.

North of the church and closer to Route 219 is a well-preserved high-posted Greek Revival Cape with center chimney and pilastered doorway with wide entablature. Beyond is the shingle-covered vernacular Community Hall built about 1922. It was constructed in response to the destruction by fire of a later Methodist Church (1894) which stood on the site.

W-21. EBENEZER DRAKE HOUSE ("Ledgeview Farm")

ca. 1819. Route 26 at Trap Corner

Possibly the finest two-story Federal style house in the town, the Ebenezer Drake House has the massive form of earlier Colonial houses. The main portion of the residence, a five-bayed, two-and-a-half story block with gable roof, large center chimney, sidelighted entrance door, and later open porch, was erected about 1819 by Ebenezer Drake, owner of the first store established at "Trap Corner," to the south.

Ebenezer Drake at one time owned most of the land upon which present-day West Paris Village stands and was the first to start a business in the northern part of the town of Paris, outside North Paris Village (West Paris Village at that time consisted of a single house). A captain in the North Company of the Paris militia who later served two terms in the state legislature, Ebenezer Drake moved to Mechanic Falls in the 1840s where he engaged in the manufacture of paper. Nathan L. Marshall, a Woodstock blacksmith, took over the Drake farm in the 1850s, and it long remained in that family.

W-22. FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

1906. Main Street (Route 219)

This asymmetrically arranged wooden church displays a number of characteristics associated with the Queen Anne style, including varied wall surface treatments and fenestration of wide variety. A three-story tower with open belfry capped with a pyramidal roof rises at the intersection of the two gables. Set on a brick basement, the building also exhibits a certain Colonial Revival quality. In its form and styling, the First Universalist Church greatly resembles the Methodist Church at Bethel Hill Village (see B-11), raised just a few years previous. In nearly original condition, this West Paris Village church remains a significant local landmark in an important Main Street site.

The area in the immediate vicinity of the Universalist Church abounds in substantial late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, many of which are rural interpretations of the Queen Anne style. Further east, along the north side of Main Street, are several good examples of vernacular Greek Revival Capes.

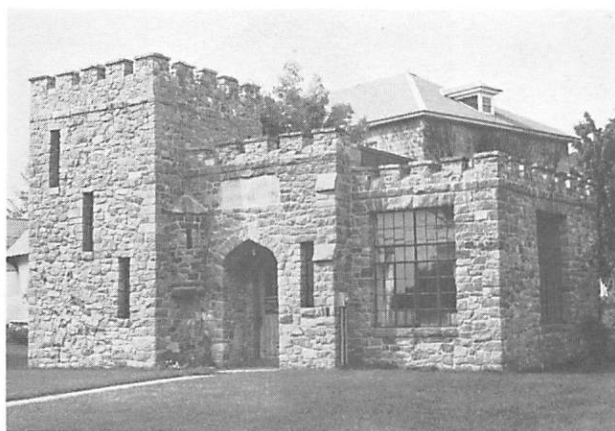


typical late Victorian village residence

W-23. ARTHUR L. MANN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1925-26. Main Street (Route 219)

Combining small size with a monumental, castle-like form, the Mann Memorial Library was completed in 1926 from plans by the Lewiston architectural firm of Gibbs and Pulsifer. Now maintained by the West Paris Public Library Association, the building features walls of uncoursed granite topped with crenellation surrounding flat roofs. The somewhat forbidding structure rises in three stages to a corner tower whose windows appear as narrow slits in the wall. The inset entrance doorway has a flattened Gothic arch which is slightly Tudor in character.



A library association was formed in West Paris in 1889 and served the local community in at least six other locations before finally establishing itself here. Lewis M. Mann, a library benefactor for whose son the library is named, purchased a village furniture factory around 1891 and successfully operated the business into the twentieth century. He also owned and operated mills in other parts of the county (see W-28). The Mann Memorial Library is one of Oxford County's most unusual twentieth century buildings.

W-24. ODD FELLOWS HALL

1876. Main Street (Route 219)

METHODIST CHURCH

1878.

Of local design interest, the West Paris Odd Fellows Hall is an excellent example of a post-Civil War vernacular Victorian fraternal hall which, in its exterior appearance, projects both reserve and optimism. Remaining essentially as built, the two-and-a-half story frame building has a three-bay gabled facade, windows of six-over-six paned sash with entablatured window heads, and a large, bracketed door hood similar to ones found on Italianate houses in western Maine. Above the clapboarded walls is a cornice displaying paired brackets. Old photos seem to support the present paint scheme in contrasting colors.

To the left of the Hall is one of Oxford County's finest wooden nineteenth century Gothic Revival churches, raised for the local Methodists in 1878 by builder Elisha Emery. Of major architectural importance for Oxford County and western Maine, the small, gable-roofed structure has several walls sheathed in board-and-batten siding, a covering advocated by contemporary pattern books for its emphasis on verticality, an identifying characteristic of Gothic Revival buildings. Projecting from the gable end is a square tower capped with an open



belfry; the double-doored entry, the window above, and the four belfry openings all take the form of pointed arches with drip moldings. A gabled cornice appears above the church's main entry and again emphasizes the "pointed" style. Later owned by the West Paris Baptist Church, this modestly scaled but distinctive wooden chapel deserves careful preservation.

To the right of the Odd Fellows Hall is the mansard-roofed Granite Masonic Lodge dating from the 1880s. With its long, open porch running along the street side, the building resembles a small summer hotel of the Victorian era. Further west, at the end of the street, two late nineteenth century stores with Victorian trim convey an accurate picture of West Paris Village's commercial district as it looked a century ago.

W-25. WEST PARIS GRANGE HALL

1909. Church Street off Main Street

The most architecturally unique of the county's many grange-associated structures, the West Paris Grange Hall is a massive, two-storied, hip-roofed structure built in 1909 under the direction of A. J. Hill of Norway. The first grange hall of its kind in the state, the building is constructed entirely of smooth- and rock-faced cement blocks, with decorative belt courses and corner quoining. It remains today in unaltered condition.

North of the Grange Hall is the vernacular West Paris Baptist Church built in 1866.



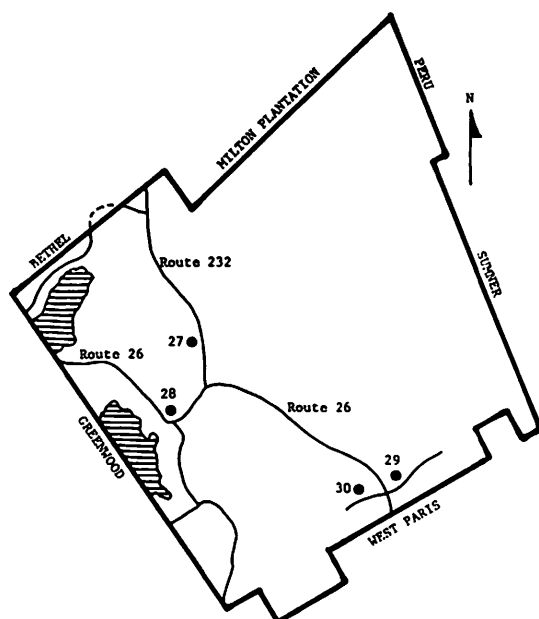
W-26. HOUGHTON-INMAN HOUSE

ca. 1859. High Street

The second finest Gothic Revival residence in Oxford County (see also P-17), the Houghton-Inman House was built by carpenter/builder Moses Houghton, Jr. for himself on a hill overlooking the village of West Paris. Houghton came to what was then the northern part of the town of Paris from Greenwood (see G-7) soon after the railroad was built here; he was undoubtedly responsible for the construction of many village homes and perhaps several of the first commercial and religious structures.

Though modest in scale and materials, this house features many of the most characteristic decorative details associated with the style. A steeply-pitched roof shelters walls broken by rectangular and pointed-arch windows with finely-crafted drip moldings. The side-hall plan presents a sidelighted, fully transomed inset doorway with a solid door paneled in a pointed-arch motif. Fanciful bargeboard trim cut on the newly perfected scroll saw is applied to the underside of the gable eaves; the east wall has a gable matching that on the south facade. The overall form and trim detail of the attached barn matches that of the house. The two-story porch between the house and barn is a much later addition and detracts somewhat from the otherwise unaltered surface arrangement.

WOODSTOCK



INTRODUCTION

The site of the nation's last hand-crank telephone system (recently removed), the town of Woodstock traces its earliest roots to the period immediately following the American Revolution. Though hunters and woodsmen had frequented the vicinity, it was not until 1796 that a road was built through the town connecting Paris ("Number Four") with Rumford ("New Pennacook"). In 1797, Christopher and Solomon Bryant came from nearby Paris and began clearing hillside farmsteads; they erected log huts and became permanent residents the following year. Among others who arrived a year later (1799) were Luther Briggs and Jacob Whitman, Jr. Besides the "Thousand Acres" claimed by the Bryant family (among others), the town included sizable land grants to Dummer and Gorham Academies, which were divided and sold to individuals in the first and second decades of the nineteenth century. Before its incorporation in 1815, the town was known as "Number Three."

Woodstock has always been an agricultural and lumbering community, as reflected in its remaining hillside farms and several woods-related mills. Undoubtedly, its greatest period of prosperity took place between the arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad in 1851 and the outbreak of World War I.

During that period, the village of Bryant Pond grew to become one of Oxford County's most important commercial centers, boasting its own hotel, mineral spring, opera house, and newspaper, *The Standard Storyteller*. With changes in transportation and business throughout the county, the town of Woodstock saw a steady decline, and only one active farmstead exists today. Though the railroad still passes through the town, passenger service ended long ago, and the depot has been razed. During its heyday, Bryant Pond was the residence of numerous individuals of prominence, including the only daughter of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Today Woodstock remains very rural, and its once-cleared farmsteads have mostly returned to forest, though enough of its nineteenth century settlement pattern exists to illustrate its former appearance. The town's most historic structure, the Andrews Mill, is one of Maine's most unique early industrial structures; a collection of woodworking machinery from this water-powered "casket factory" is being permanently installed as part of the Maine State Museum's "Made In Maine" manufacturing exhibit. The Woodstock Historical Society, established in 1978, recently opened a museum of town-related artifacts to the public.

Besides the village of Bryant Pond, Woodstock contains the smaller communities of North ("Pinhook") and South Woodstock, the latter being the site of the Andrews Mill (see above). Both of the smaller villages retain much their early architectural flavor, though intrusions have taken their toll. Woodstock's 1880 population figure stood at 1,087; a century later it had dropped only slightly to 952 individuals.



W-27. COLE-ALGER HOUSE
ca. 1816. Route 232 off Route 26

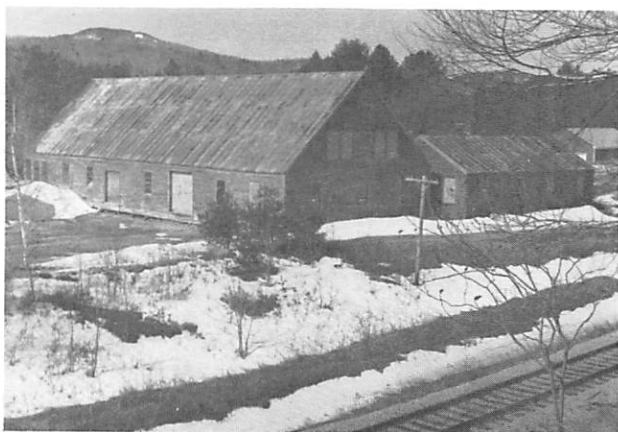
This center-chimneyed Cape built by early town resident Jonathan Cole is important both for its well-preserved architectural qualities and for being the home of one of Woodstock's prominent early nineteenth century citizens. Cole purchased this upland site in 1815 and immediately erected a log house. This dwelling, in typical fashion, was followed soon after by the present low-posted framed house, little changed in outward appearance since its construction. Surrounded by open fields and set off by stone walls, the Cole-Alger House is a significant early survivor from Woodstock's formative years.

W-28. BRYANT POND VILLAGE

Route 26

Despite the ravages of time and fire, the village of Bryant Pond retains a large number of structures from the heyday of its existence as a major railroad terminus for central Oxford County. The site was named for early settlers Christopher and Solomon Bryant, who arrived in the western portion of Woodstock in 1798. Previous to 1851, when the railroad was constructed along the town's western edge, this location was still heavily forested. Today, in spite of the loss of the village railroad station and its hotel, the Glen Mountain House, a large assemblage of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings convey a feeling of an earlier time, when Bryant Pond was one of the county's busiest communities.

Standing at the north end of the village on the western side of the Grand Trunk (Canadian National) tracks are the buildings of the Fernald, Keene, and True Corn-canning Factory. Once common commercial establishments in Oxford



Fernald, Keene, and True Company Canning Factory

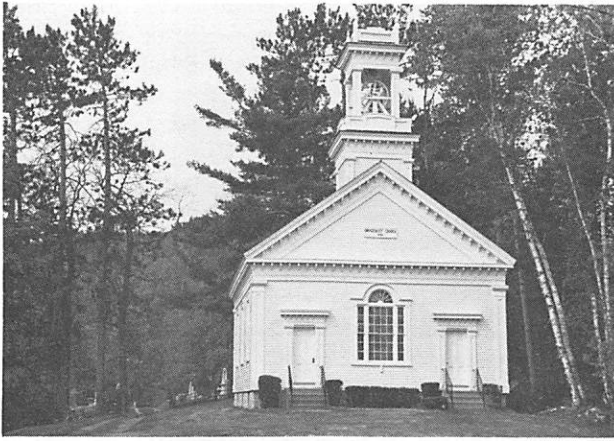
County, large, barn-like canneries have become increasingly rare examples of local agricultural productivity. Similar in appearance to shops remaining in Oxford and South Paris, the Bryant Pond facility was built and dedicated in 1891; the main building consists of a massive wooden structure where the cutters, conveyors, and packing equipment were once located. Surrounding the central building are several sheds, with the railroad tracks a short distance away. Now in a state of decay, the Corn Shop functioned until around 1931.

South and closer to Lake Christopher (known in the nineteenth century as "Bryant's Pond," hence the village name) is the former Lewis M. Mann Mill, a much remodeled brick structure built in 1921-23. Utilized for the manufacture of clothespins, the mill complex once contained a saw mill and a large power plant, now converted into a restaurant. The larger brick portion, where millions of small wooden parts were once produced, has now been rehabilitated into condominiums. A large sign in the shape of a clothespin remains from the company's productive years. Directly across the lake on the opposite shore stands a massive summer cottage exhibiting design elements from the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. Sheathed in darkly-painted wood shingles, the house features large round-arch windows on its first story and smaller, diamond-paned types on the second. The imposing structure dates to 1902.

On the opposite side of Route 26, closer to the village center, is the Bartlett House, built by Samuel Gibson in 1852; it displays Greek and Gothic Revival characteristics. The steeply-pitched roof, pedimented windows, and decorative eaves trim lend design interest to the lengthy structure. Across the street are three vernacular gable-roofed buildings, important remnants of the village's railroad heyday. That furthest north is in the process of being converted to use by the Woodstock Historical Society, formed in 1980. Directly behind the former storage buildings, on a side street, is a two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house exhibiting a porticoed facade with second story porch. Built around 1855 by Greenwood native Stephen P. Rowe, the house is one of the most interesting and impressive residences in the town.

Off Route 26 (Main Street), on a road that follows closely alongside the lake, is the eclectic Universalist Church of 1852. Designed by Ezra Beal of Norway and built by Moses Houghton of Greenwood and West Paris, the tall, clapboard-covered building displays Greek Revival, Italianate, and Federal design characteristics. Most notable are the well-defined triangular pediment with cornice brackets, and the large Palladian window on the first story facade; the latter feature may not have been part of the original plan. As in many of the county's better Greek Revival structures, the church makes use of heavy pilasters, in this case paneled ones, on the doors, at the corners, and on the square tower base. This pattern is mirrored in the four square piers which support a belfry roof featuring a bracketed cornice, parapets, and short, Gothic-like spirelets. Built in a pine grove near the lake, the Universalist Church guards the entrance to Woodstock's largest cemetery.

Back in the village proper, on the north side of Main Street, is a fine wooden two-and-a-half story store constructed by Joel Perham in 1860, again in a Greek



Universalist Church

Revival motif. While the first story gives way to large display windows framing an inset doorway, the second story has an open porch supported by large square pillars, creating a portico-like effect. The building has a very steep roof, a modification on Greek Revival buildings as utilized by local builders. Across a side street is the former C. R. Houghton Store, a rambling vernacular Greek Revival structure built in 1856. The building was extensively remodeled around 1950.



Joel Perham Store

Two side-hall Greek Revival houses with Gothic-like window and door moldings stand on the opposite side of Main Street further east. That on the left has a porch with square posts decorated with simple inset panels.



Whitman Memorial Library

The Whitman Memorial Library, a Colonial Revival building erected in 1909-10, stands back from the street on a site that draws attention to this otherwise modest structure. Dedicated in memory of town residents Alanson and Eleanor Bryant Whitman (both descendants of Woodstock's earliest settlers), the library is of one story with a hipped roof separated from the clapboarded walls by a narrow band of shingles. The single feature of note is the entrance doorway in Federal character; a semi-elliptical opening of diamond-paned sash tops the door. Though the interior has been remodeled, the exterior continues to present the building's turn-of-the-century appearance. The Whitman Library closely resembles the town library in Buckfield (see B-40).

Two of the largest wood-framed structures in the village stand to the east. The Franklin Grange Hall, constructed in 1891-92, was originally built without the present first-story wrap-around porch, which was added a year or so later. The two-and-a-half story vernacular building may be the largest structure erected for this purpose surviving in Oxford County. Next door is the similar-sized vernacular Victorian Masonic Hall/Town Hall, begun in 1872 as a store for Orlando and Horatio Houghton, but converted that same year to its present use. At the rear of the two buildings is the pyramidal-roofed former grange stable, now used for town purposes.

The Bryant Pond Baptist Church, built in 1856, is an unadorned Greek Revival building standing further east. Its belfry and slender wooden spire seem underscaled for the building's size. Behind the church, the former Woodstock High School building, now an elementary school, is a massive wood frame

structure with a truncated hip roof sporting an octagonal louvered cupola. Begun in 1915, the building was doubled to its present size in 1921.



W-29. ANDREWS MILL ("Casket Factory")

ca. 1826, 1830s, and later. Off Route 26 at South Woodstock

A remarkable survivor from an earlier era of manufacturing, the Andrews Mill is one of Maine's most historic pre-Civil War industrial structures. Begun about 1826 as an up-and-down saw mill by early Woodstock settler David Andrews, the small wood frame structure was turned over to his son, Ziba Andrews, a Baptist preacher, in 1828. Under Ziba Andrews's ownership, the mill supplied the local area with boards and sawn timber, as well as custom work, such as doors and window sash. By the 1850s, the production of wooden coffins took on major importance, with Ziba Andrews providing not only the container but also the burial service. After the 1860s, the production of coffins became the mill's major purpose, one it retained well into the twentieth century. Though materials for casket production are now shipped to the site, the Andrews Mill exists as the only operating water-powered mill of its type in Oxford County.

In 1983, some of the original woodworking machinery from this early nineteenth century mill was donated to the Maine State Museum at Augusta, where it is currently being installed in a permanent exhibit on Maine manufacturing. The mill itself is presently owned by the sixth generation of the Andrews family.

A small village, including a store, tavern, meetinghouse, school, and several houses, grew up around the Andrews Mill. Importantly, a number of well-preserved buildings associated with the Andrews family and the coffin-manufacturing business survive in the immediate vicinity.

**W-30. DAVIS FARMSTEAD**

ca. 1860s, 1897-98. Curtis Hill Road off Route 26 at South Woodstock

This vernacular Victorian farmstead consists of two houses standing on opposite sides of a massive wood frame barn, one of the largest remaining in the town. The house on the left, known at one time as the Curtis Homestead, probably dates to the early 1860s. That on the right, with an open porch with bracketed, turned posts, was built in 1897-98 by a member of the Davis family, who also occupied the older house at the time. Arranged in a well-balanced composition at the top of a knoll, these typical Oxford County farm structures speak well of an earlier, more prosperous agricultural era.

Across Route 26 is the former Union Church, a vernacular gable-roofed building constructed in 1856 by the local Methodists and Free Baptists. In 1873, the Methodists assumed complete ownership and continued holding meetings here into the present century. Today, the well-preserved structure is maintained by the area "Willing Workers" society, which opens it for various functions in the summer.

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